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## North Dakota county may become U.S.'s 1st to bar new refugees

**JAMES MacPHERSON**  
Associated Press

**BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)**— Reuben Panchol was forced to leave war-torn Sudan decades ago as a child, embarking on an odyssey that eventually brought him to the American Midwest and left him eternally grateful to the country that took him in. "I am an American citizen, a North Dakotan," said Panchol, a 38-year-old father of four. "And without North Dakota, I couldn't have made it." Panchol

hopes to share his story on Monday with members of a local commission who are set to vote on whether their county will stop accepting refugees. If they vote to bar refugees, as expected, Burleigh County — home to about 95,000 people and the capital city of Bismarck — could become the first local government to do so since President Donald Trump issued an executive order making it possible.

Continued on Page 2



Reuben Panchol is shown Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 at the North Dakota state capitol in Bismarck. Associated Press

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# North Dakota county may become U.S.'s 1st to bar new refugees

Continued from Front

The county postponed a vote last week when more than 100 people showed up and overflowed the commission's normal meeting space. Monday night's meeting will be held in a middle school cafeteria to accommodate public interest that Chairman Brian Bitner said is the most intense he's seen in more than a decade on the commission.

Though he declined to predict which way the commission would go, Bitner said he would vote against accepting additional refugees.

"The overwhelming public opinion is so clear to me, that I think if you vote for it, you're not going to be reelected if you choose to run again," he said.

Trump's executive order this fall came as he had already proposed cutting the number of refugees next year to the lowest level since Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980. He declared that refugees should be resettled only in places where the state and local governments — counties — gave consent. Since then, many governors and counties around the country have declared that they would continue taking refugees.

Republican Gov. Doug Burgum said last month that North Dakota would continue accepting refugees where local jurisdictions agreed, and his spokesman said the governor saw it as a local decision. Soon after, Cass and Grand Forks counties, which are home to the state's largest city, Fargo, and third-largest city, Grand Forks, respectively, declared they would continue taking refugees. Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney said refugees were needed to boost the city's economy, and that 90% were fully employed within three months of resettling in his city.

But the idea was quickly opposed in more conservative Burleigh County. Among the opponents was Republican state Rep. Rick Becker, of Bismarck,



Reuben Panchol is shown Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 at the North Dakota state capitol in Bismarck.

Associated Press

an ultraconservative who took to social media to criticize the program as unrestrained and a possible drain on social service programs, schools and law enforcement, though the county said it doesn't track any costs directly related to refugees.

"This isn't about skin color," said Becker, a plastic surgeon and former gubernatorial candidate. "In the past, nobody had any say whatsoever. Now we have something that should have been in place decades ago.

"Now, if they want to accept them, they can, and if they don't want to they shouldn't," he said. Bismarck Mayor Steve Bakken said the city government has no say in the matter, but he sides with those who want to stop taking in more refugees.

"Right now it's a blank check and that equates into a lot of questions," Bakken said of the number of refugees that could be placed in the area. "We have burgeoning school

enrollment, veterans' needs, homeless needs, and Native American needs.

"This isn't about heart-strings, this is about purse strings," he said.

Shirley Dykshoorn, a vice president for Lutheran Social Services, which handles all of North Dakota's refugee resettlement cases, said her agency used to handle about 400 cases per year, but that number dropped to 124 in fiscal 2019, which ended in September. The program has been in existence in North Dakota since 1948.

LSS settled 24 refugees in Bismarck in fiscal 2019, after settling 22 in fiscal 2018. Dykshoorn said Burleigh County had been projected to get no more than 25 refugees annually in the coming years.

"We always look at the capacity of a community to handle these," she said.

"I'm trying to understand the basis for believing how 25 people will dramatically change the fabric of a community," she said.

"What does it say to the rest of the country when a county where your capital city is located would choose not to participate?"

For decades, North Dakota considered any population gain a good thing. Its population declined by more than 21,000 between 2000 and 2007 until an oil boom sparked a rush of workers into the state. Many jobs remain unfilled even though the state has added nearly 100,000 residents in the past decade. Though many new arrivals work in the oil patch, many are also attracted to Fargo, which has a burgeoning tech industry, and Grand Forks, which is an aviation hub.

Burgum, who has said he'll seek a second term, acknowledged that Burleigh County's vote could be seen as unwelcoming in a state that has about 30,000 more jobs than takers.

"It sends a very negative signal" if Burleigh County refuses refugees, he said.

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, which works with Lutheran Social Services, is one of three national organizations that is suing to block Trump's executive order. The group's president and chief executive, Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, said her organization has closely tracked the response and is aware of no other local government that has

voted to reject refugees. Panchol, the father of four, moved to North Dakota in 2001 as one of the "Lost Boys," Sudanese orphans who fled thousands of miles on foot during the civil war that ravaged his country. His path wound through Ethiopia and Kenya before he ended up in Fargo and later in Lincoln, a small community outside of Bismarck.

"I ran from bullets every day," he said. "We moved from country to country not to disturb anyone's life but to stay alive."

Since moving to the state, he has earned degrees from North Dakota State University in Fargo and the University of Mary in Bismarck. He works now at the state Department of Environmental Quality, heading its underground storage tank program, and has become enough of an Upper Midwesterner that he occasionally drops a "You betcha" into the conversation.

Panchol said he understands the reservations that people may have about new arrivals, but he believes any fear is more politically driven than reality.

"Honestly, North Dakotans have been very welcoming to me and I give North Dakota credit for helping people like me better their lives," he said. "It wasn't my choice to come to North Dakota, but I'm glad I did. Big time." □

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## Supreme Court keeps federal executions on hold

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Friday blocked the Trump administration from restarting federal executions next week after a 16-year break. The justices denied the administration's plea to undo a lower court ruling in favor of inmates who have been given execution dates. The first of those had been scheduled for Monday, with a second set for Friday. Two more inmates had been given execution

dates in January. Attorney General William Barr announced during the summer that federal executions would resume using a single drug, pentobarbital, to put inmates to death. U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington, D.C., temporarily halted the executions after some of the chosen inmates challenged the new execution procedures in court. Chutkan ruled that the procedure approved by Barr likely violates the Federal Death Penalty Act.



The federal appeals court in Washington had earlier denied the administration's emergency plea to put Chutkan's ruling on hold and allow the executions to proceed. Federal executions are likely to remain on hold at least for several months, while the appeals court in Washington undertakes a full review of Chutkan's ruling. The Supreme Court justices directed the appeals court to act "with appropriate dispatch." □



In this Jan. 24, 2019, file photo, the Supreme Court is seen at sunset in Washington.

Associated Press

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# Watchdog expected to find Russia probe valid, despite flaws

**ERIC TUCKER**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Justice Department's internal watchdog will release a highly anticipated report Monday that is expected to reject President Donald Trump's claims that the Russia investigation was illegitimate and tainted by political bias from FBI leaders. But it is also expected to document errors during the investigation that may animate Trump supporters. The report, as described by people familiar with its findings, is expected to conclude there was an adequate basis for opening one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history and one that Trump has denounced as a witch hunt. It began in secret during Trump's 2016 presidential run and was ultimately taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller.

The report comes as Trump faces an impeachment inquiry in Congress centered on his efforts to press Ukraine to investigate a political rival, Democrat



In this June 19, 2018, file photo, Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz testifies before a joint House Committee on the Judiciary and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

**Associated Press**

Joe Biden a probe the president also claims is politically biased.

Still, the release of Inspector General Michael Horowitz's review is unlikely to quell the partisan battles that have surrounded the Russia investigation for years. It's also not the last word: A separate internal

investigation continues, overseen by Trump's attorney general, William Barr and led by a U.S. attorney, John Durham. That investigation is criminal in nature, and Republicans may look to it to uncover wrongdoing that the inspector general wasn't examining. Trump told reporters Sat-

urday that he was waiting for the chance to see Horowitz's report and that he looked forward "very much to seeing what happens with the Durham report, maybe even more importantly, because it's a horrible thing that took place and it should never happen to another president."

Horowitz's report is expected to identify errors and misjudgments by some law enforcement officials, including by an FBI lawyer suspected of altering a document related to the surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide. Those findings probably will fuel arguments by Trump and his supporters that the investigation was flawed from the start.

But the report will not endorse some of the president's theories on the investigation, including that it was a baseless "witch hunt" or that he was targeted by an Obama administration Justice Department desperate to see Republican Trump lose to Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

It also is not expected to undo Mueller's findings or call into question his conclusion that Russia interfered in that election in order to benefit the Trump campaign and that Russians had repeated con-

tacts with Trump associates.

Some of the findings were described to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity by people who were not authorized to discuss a draft of the report before its release. The AP has not viewed a copy of the document.

It is unclear how Barr, a strong defender of Trump, will respond to Horowitz's findings. He has told Congress that he believed "spying" on the Trump campaign did occur and has raised public questions about whether the counterintelligence investigation was done correctly.

The FBI opened its investigation in July 2016 after receiving information from an Australian diplomat that a Trump campaign adviser, George Papadopoulos, had been told before it was publicly known that Russia had dirt on the Clinton campaign in the form of thousands of stolen emails.

By that point, the Democratic National Committee had been hacked, an act that a private security firm and ultimately U.S. intelligence agencies attributed to Russia. Prosecutors allege that Papadopoulos learned about the stolen emails from a Maltese professor named Joseph Mifsud. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about that interaction.

The investigation was taken over in May 2017 by Mueller, who charged six Trump associates with various crimes as well as 25 Russians accused of interfering in the election either through hacking or a social media disinformation campaign. Mueller did not find sufficient evidence to charge a criminal conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia.

He examined multiple episodes in which Trump sought to seize control of the investigation, including by firing James Comey as FBI director, but declined to decide on whether Trump had illegally obstructed justice. □

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# FBI says it presumes base shooting was act of terrorism

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON** and **MIKE BALSAMO**  
Associated Press

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) —** The Saudi gunman who killed three people at the Pensacola naval base had apparently gone on Twitter shortly before the shooting to blast U.S. support of Israel and accuse America of being anti-Muslim, a U.S. official said Sunday as the FBI confirmed it is operating on the assumption the attack was an act of terrorism. Investigators are also working to establish whether the killer, identified as 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, of the Royal Saudi Air Force, acted alone. Alshamrani, who was killed in the attack at a classroom building Friday, was undergoing flight training at Pensacola, where members of foreign militaries routinely receive instruction.

"We are, as we do in most active-shooter investigations, work with the presumption that this was an act of terrorism," said Rachel L. Rojas, FBI agent in charge.

Authorities believe the gunman made social media posts criticizing the U.S. under a user handle similar to his name, but federal law enforcement officials are investigating whether he authored the words or just posted them, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Also, investigators believe the gunman visited New York City, including Rockefeller Center, days before the shooting and are working to determine the purpose of the trip, the official said.

All international students at the Pensacola base have been accounted for, there have been no arrests, and the community is under no immediate threat, Rojas said at a news conference. A Saudi commanding officer has

ordered all students from the country to remain at one location at the base, authorities said.

"There are a number of Saudi students who are close to the shooter and continue to cooperate in this investigation," Rojas said. "The Saudi government has pledged to fully cooperate with our investigation."

Earlier in the week of the shooting, Alshamrani hosted a dinner party where he and three others watched videos of mass shootings, another U.S. official told the AP on Saturday. Alshamrani wounded two sheriff's deputies, one in the arm and one in the knee, before one of them killed him. Eight others were also hurt. Both deputies were expected to survive.

Alshamrani used a Glock 9 mm weapon that had been purchased legally in Florida, Rojas said.

Family members and others identified the three dead as Joshua Kaleb Watson, a 23-year-old graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy; Airman Mohammed Sameh Haitham, 19, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who joined the Navy after graduating from high school last year; and Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters, 21, of Richmond Hill, Georgia.

The official who spoke Saturday said one of the three students who attended the dinner party hosted by the attacker recorded video outside the classroom building while the shooting was taking place. Two other Saudi students watched from a car, the official said.

President Donald Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the shooting looked like "terrorism or akin to terrorism." But he cautioned that the FBI was still investigating.

"Look, to me it appears to be a terrorist attack," he said. "I don't want pre-

judge the investigation, but it appears that this may be someone that was radicalized." O'Brien said he did not see evidence so far of a "broader plot." The U.S. has long had a robust training program for Saudis, providing assistance in the U.S. and in the kingdom. More than 850 Saudis are in the United States for various training activities. They are among more than 5,000 foreign students from 153 countries in the U.S. going through military training. "This has been done for many decades," Trump said on Saturday. "I guess we're going to have to look into the whole pro-



This undated photo provided by the FBI shows Mohammed Alshamrani. The Saudi student opened fire inside a classroom at Naval Air Station Pensacola on Friday before one of the deputies killed him.

Associated Press

cedure. We'll start that immediately." □

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## America's influence, once so dominant, waning under Trump

By **TIM SULLIVAN**  
**Associated Press**

It's whispered in NATO meeting rooms and celebrated in China's halls of power. It's lamented in the capital cities of key U.S. allies and welcomed in the Kremlin.

Three years into Donald Trump's presidency, America's global influence is waning. In interviews with The Associated Press, diplomats, foreign officials and scholars from numerous countries describe a changing world order in which the United States has less of a central role.

And in many ways, that's just fine with the White House. Trump campaigned on an "America First" foreign policy and says a strong United States will mean a stronger world.

"The future doesn't belong to globalists," Trump told the U.N. General Assembly in September. "The future belongs to patriots."

Trump insists he's abandoning globalism for bilateral ties more beneficial to the U.S..

But there's little sign of that. Instead, once-close allies — France, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Turkey, Germany and more — have quietly edged away from Washington over the past three years.

Sometimes it's not so quiet. In a Buckingham Palace reception room during the recent NATO summit, a TV camera caught a cluster of European leaders grinning as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appeared to mock Trump.

"You just watched his team's jaws drop to the floor," Trudeau said, apparently speaking about his meeting with Trump, talking to a group that included the leaders of France, Britain and the Netherlands.



**In this Dec. 4, 2019, photo, from front row left, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, U.S. President Donald Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez attend a ceremony event during a NATO leaders meeting at The Grove hotel and resort in Watford, Hertfordshire, England.**

**Associated Press**

Trudeau quickly tried to walk back his words, telling reporters that he and Trump have a "good and constructive relationship." But the footage brought into the open the increasing divide between the United States and its allies. This is a major change. For generations, America saw itself as the center of the world. For better or worse, most of the rest of the world has regarded the U.S. as its colossus — respecting it, fearing it, turning to it for answers.

"We are America," said Madeleine Albright, secretary of state in the Clinton administration. "We are the indispensable nation."

To be sure, America is still a global superpower.

But now, the country's waning influence is profoundly redrawing the geopolitical map, opening the way for Washington's two most powerful foes — Russia and China — to extend their reach into many countries where they had long been

seen with suspicion. Because those longtime friends of Washington? Many are now looking elsewhere for alliances. Very often, they look to China or Russia.

In Islamabad, for example, where the U.S. was once seen as the only game in town, Pakistan's government now gets military aid and training from Russia and billions of dollars in investment and loans from China. In the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte is nurturing closer ties to Beijing despite his nervousness over its expansionism in the South China Sea. In Egypt, long one of America's closest Middle Eastern allies, Cairo now lets Russian military planes use its bases and the two countries recently held joint air force exercises.

In Ukraine, which has looked to U.S. military aid for years to try to keep an expansionist Russia in check, Trump's questionable loyalty is seen as creating a

dangerous vacuum. "Once the U.S. role in Europe weakens, Russia's influence inevitably grows," Vadim Karasev, head of the Kyiv-based Institute of Global Strategies said.

Or there's France, whose friendship with America goes back to the days of George Washington. Perhaps more than any other Western leader, French President Emmanuel Macron has made clear that Europe should look to Beijing, not Washington, when it comes to addressing global issues from trade wars to Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Macron's recent trip to China was choreographed in part to convey that the European Union has little faith in Washington anymore.

Europe is on "the edge of a precipice," Macron told The Economist magazine in a recent interview. "What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO," he said, a reference to the announced U.S. withdraw-

al from northern Syria. Perhaps no U.S. ally is more worried than the Kurds, America's longtime battlefield allies. They bore the brunt of the combat as the Islamic State group was driven from the territory it held across a swath of Iraq and Syria.

"Betrayal process is officially complete," a Kurdish official said in a WhatsApp message sent to journalists after Trump's defense secretary announced U.S. troops would fully withdraw from northeastern Syria. That pullout paved the way for a Turkish offensive against Kurdish fighters and signaled to the world that U.S. may no longer be as reliable as it once was.

The Kurds weren't taken completely by surprise. Kurdish officials had been holding back -channel talks with Syria and Russia for more than a year before the announcement. The Kurds feared they would be abandoned by Washington.

China has been delighted by what it sees as the voluntary abdication of U.S. leadership, particularly on free trade and climate change.

Trump's pullout from the planned Trans-Pacific Partnership, for example, opened the way for Beijing to push ahead with its own alternative free-trade agreement.

Meanwhile, China has gone from being a climate change curmudgeon to sometimes reaping praise as a global leader on the issue.

The White House's National Security Council did not respond to requests for comment about this story.

Trump insists he is not pulling the U.S. off the world stage.

**Continued on Page 27**



# Houston police sergeant shot and killed; suspect in custody

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A suspect has been charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of a Houston police officer who was responding to a domestic violence report, officials said Sunday.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced Sgt. Christopher Brewster's death at a news conference late Saturday. Police officials said in a tweet that the 32-year-old officer was shot just before 6 p.m.

The suspected gunman, Arturo Solis, was arrested without incident following a search after the shooting, police said in a news release Sunday.

Court records do not list an attorney who could speak on Solis' behalf, but list a Monday court date for him on the charge and show that he is being held without bond.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said at the news conference that police received a call from a female victim who said her boyfriend was assaulting her and that he was armed with two firearms. Police didn't find the couple at the provided address, but Brewster spotted them three streets away on Houston's east side.

Brewster had got out of his patrol vehicle and was walking toward the wom-

an when she pointed in the direction of the suspect, Solis, the release said. As Brewster turned toward him, Solis opened fire and shot him multiple times.

Acevedo said the sergeant managed to relay a description of the shooter.

"Although he was mortally wounded, he had the presence of mind to draw his pistol out of his holster to protect himself in case the suspect came up and he also had the presence of mind and courage to put out and broadcast suspect information that was critical for the responding units," Acevedo said.

Brewster died about half an hour after the shooting, which Acevedo said was captured on body cameras. Acevedo initially said Brewster wasn't wearing his vest, but later confirmed that the officer was.

"What people will see is a coward who took the life of a hero," Acevedo said. Solis fled on foot, and responding officers saw him jumping fences, the police chief said. He was armed with a semi-automatic pistol when he was captured at a school, according to Acevedo, who later tweeted that police recovered both firearms and other evidence discarded by the suspect.

He is charged with capital

murder of a police officer. The woman who called police was not hurt and is cooperating with the investigation, Acevedo said. Turner said Gov. Greg Abbott had called and expressed condolences for Brewster's family. The governor also tweeted about the shooting, saying "Tonight & Every Night we Back The Blue in Houston & across Texas."

Just hours after Brewster's death, a police officer in Fayetteville, Arkansas, was shot and killed outside the police department there. The suspect in that shooting was fatally shot by responding officers. □



In this undated photo posted on Twitter and provided by the Houston Police Department is Sgt. Christopher Brewster, who was shot and killed Saturday evening, Dec. 7, 2019, by a man who had been reported for assault, authorities said.

Associated Press

## Drug supplier linked to fatal 2017 overdose sentenced

**NEWARK, Del. (AP)** — A Pennsylvania-based man who authorities describe as the highest-level dealer in a drug trafficking network has been sentenced to a 20-year prison term for his role in a Delaware man's fatal overdose.

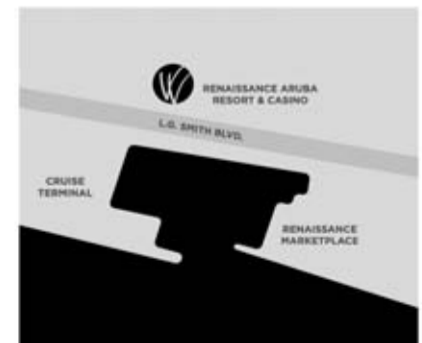
Federal prosecutors said Emanuel Jimenez was sentenced last week to the lengthy prison term. Jimenez is a citizen of the Dominican Republic who went by the alias Robin Cintron-Pratts.

Investigators previously tied Jimenez to 13,000 bags of fentanyl-laced heroin stamped "Tasty" that were driven down from Philadelphia and distributed through Delaware. Four of those "Tasty" bags were found along with the body of Davis in February 2017.

Two other men have been convicted in connection to the drug ring. □



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## Germany: Merkel party criticizes ally's call for concessions

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — The leader of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's party says she would have liked a clear signal from its junior governing partner that it intends to stay in Merkel's coalition, and is deeply skeptical about its calls for new concessions.

The Social Democrats, the junior partner in Merkel's fractious government, have elected a left-leaning new leadership duo, Saskia Esken and Norbert Walter-Borjans.

A party convention on Friday gave them a mandate to hold talks with Merkel's center-right Union bloc aimed at raising the national minimum wage, increasing public investment and raising the price of carbon dioxide in a recently agreed climate package. The Social Democrat convention rejected a call from left-wingers to leave the government immediately, but left open when a decision would be made



**Norbert Walter-Borjans stands alongside Saskia Esken, from right, at the beginning of the German Social Democrats, SPD, federal party conference in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Dec. 6, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

on whether the party stays or goes. Merkel's bloc has made clear that it has no intention of radically renegotiating the accord underpinning the "grand coalition" of what were traditionally Germany's biggest parties.

"I would have liked a really clear signal from the Social Democrats' convention on the continuation of the 'grand coalition,'" Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, the leader of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, told Sunday's edition of the Bild

am Sonntag newspaper. "Governing a bit is just as impossible as being a bit pregnant," she said. Kramp-Karrenbauer said that "we can't start from scratch again" on the climate package, details of which are already due

to be haggled over after parliament's upper house, which represents state governments, halted parts of it. As for the call for a massive increase in public investment, she argued that there is no shortage of money and that, as long as already-agreed funding hasn't been used, it makes no sense to run up billions of euros in new debt.

In separate comments to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper, Kramp-Karrenbauer criticized the Social Democrat leadership's call for raising the minimum wage, which currently stands at 9.19 euros per hour and is due to rise to 9.35 euros in January, to 12 euros (\$13.25).

The minimum wage was introduced in 2015 at the Social Democrats' insistence and its level is reviewed regularly by an independent commission. Kramp-Karrenbauer was quoted as saying that its level should "not be set politically." □

## Female minister, 34, tapped to become Finland's youngest PM

**By JARI TANNER**  
**Associated Press**

**TALLINN, Estonia (AP)** — A 34-year-old transport minister and lawmaker has been tapped to become Finland's youngest prime minister ever and its third female government leader. Finland's ruling Social Democratic Party council voted 32-29 late Sunday to name Sanna Marin over rival Antti Lindtman to take over the government's top post from incumbent Antti Rinne. Having emerged as Finland's largest party in the April election, the Social



**The candidate for the next Prime Minister of Finland, Sanna Marin, left, smiles after she won the SDP's Prime Minister candidate vote against Antti Lindtman, in Helsinki, Finland, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

Democrats can appoint one of their own to the post of prime minister in the Nordic nation of 5.5 million. Marin has been the party's vice chairwoman, a lawmaker since 2015 and served as until this week as the minister for transport and communications. According to Finland's biggest newspaper Helsingin Sanomat and the Ilta-Sanomat tabloid, Marin will become the world's youngest sitting prime minister. Rinne stepped down Tuesday after a key coalition partner, the Center Party,

withdrew its support, citing lack of trust.

The Center Party also criticized Rinne's leadership skills prior to a two-week strike by the country's state-owned postal service Posti in November that spread to other industries, including the national flag carrier Finnair.

Rinne's resignation prompted the formal resignation of a coalition of the Social Democrats and the Center Party and three junior partners: the Greens, the Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party of Finland. □



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## Ukraine faces new challenges in peace talks with Russia

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

When new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy sits down Monday for peace talks in Paris with Russian President Vladimir Putin in their first face-to-face meeting, the stakes couldn't be higher.

More than five years of fighting in eastern Ukraine between government troops and Moscow-backed separatists has killed more than 14,000 people, and a cease-fire has remained elusive. While Zelenskiy has made ending the conflict a priority, the political novice arrives at the table with the veteran Kremlin leader in what appears to be a less-advantageous position:

— Zelenskiy still hasn't had the White House meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump that he sought to bolster his stature on the world stage.

— French President Emmanuel Macron, the host of the meeting, has made clear recently that he wants to re-engage with Russia and get back to doing business again after five years of sanctions imposed on Russia over its actions in Ukraine.

— Macron and the other mediator in the talks, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, will be meeting Zelenskiy for the first time since it emerged that he criticized them in the July 25 phone call that has become the focus of an impeachment investigation against Trump.

So there are concerns among those who support



In this file photo taken on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, left, attend a joint news conference after a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

Ukraine's sovereignty that Zelenskiy might end up giving too many concessions to Putin. That could lead to a backlash from Ukrainians who strongly oppose any rapprochement with Russia.

The talks are being organized in the so-called Normandy Format, which was launched soon after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and its backing of the separatists in eastern Ukraine. The consultations had stalled since 2016 but have been revived following Zelenskiy's election.

"There is a whole cocktail of economics and geopolitics that make the situation for Ukraine very difficult and is posing lot of challenges," said Bruno Lete, a security expert at the German Marshal Fund of the U.S., a leading think tank.

"But it's critical that Europeans and the U.S. support Ukraine," Lete argued. "Without peace and stability in Ukraine, there will never be peace and stability in Europe."

The biggest challenge for Kyiv probably comes from France itself, with Macron speaking recently of the "brain death" of NATO because of a lack of coordination and leadership from Washington and also saying he wants to re-engage with Russia.

"It's like telling Russia, 'I will work with you and we'll see about Ukraine,'" Lete said. "He should have waited until after the Normandy meeting. It doesn't help the cause of European security."

The Normandy Format talks had have also been revived following several confidence-building steps

between Moscow and Kyiv, including prisoner swaps and troop withdrawals by both sides.

On Sunday, Pope Francis said he was praying for the talks to bring peace "to that territory and its population." Taras Kuzio, a security expert and professor at National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, said Zelenskiy has already weakened his own position by agreeing to the talks even though Russia insists Crimea is non-negotiable.

Kuzio described the 41-year-old Zelenskiy, until recently a comedic actor, as "extremely naïve about international relations" and said he will find himself in a difficult place — facing a tough opponent in Putin and a population that would reject any capitulation to Moscow.

He said Zelenskiy doesn't

grasp that the Russian leader will never compromise over the conflict in eastern Ukraine because "for Putin, compromise is a defeat."

And Macron's pursuit of a reset with Moscow doesn't help Ukraine either.

"The danger is that Zelenskiy will be ambushed by Macron working in effect for Putin because his new agenda is to repair relations with Russia, to get back to a normal relationship, get back to doing business," Kuzio said. Despite the challenges, Ukraine still has the support from the European Union, its biggest foreign donor, while Merkel has strongly supported sanctions on Russia.

But Germany's longer-term economic interests are a continual challenge for Ukraine. Its route bypasses Ukraine, cutting off its leverage as a transit country and an income source.

Germany's relationship with Moscow has been complicated by last week's expulsion of two Russian diplomats over the brazen killing of a Georgian national in Berlin in August, with prosecutors suggesting the slaying was either ordered by Russia or authorities in the republic of Chechnya.

Zelenskiy also isn't helped by the revelations in the July 25 phone call with Trump. A rough transcript of the call revealed him accusing Merkel and Macron of giving too little help to Ukraine. At one point, Zelenskiy tells Trump: "When I was speaking to Angela Merkel, she talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything." □



# Devastating factory fire kills at least 43 in Indian capital

By SHEIKH SAALIQ  
ASHOK SHARMA

Associated Press

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — A fire believed to be caused by an electrical short circuit engulfed a building in India's capital on Sunday where handbags and other items were made by workers earning as little as 2 dollars per day, killing at least 43 people.

The blaze in New Delhi's Karol Bagh neighborhood, a warren of narrow alleyways with electrical wiring strung helter-skelter, was the second major fire there this year.

In February, 17 people were killed in a blaze that started in a six-story building's illegal rooftop kitchen. Karol Bagh contains the city's largest wholesale market for household goods, known as Sadar Bazaar.

The area's aging buildings are stacked with apartments, shops, storage facilities and manufacturing units.

Assistant New Delhi police commissioner Anil Kumar Mittal said that "the



A fire engine stands by the site of a fire in an alleyway, tangled in electrical wire and too narrow for vehicles to access, in New Delhi, India, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.

fire appears to have been caused by an electric short circuit," adding that authorities were investigating whether the factory was operating legally.

Building laws and safety norms are routinely flouted in New Delhi, making fires

common.

The building's owner, Rihan, who goes by one name, was detained on suspicion of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, Mittal said.

Firefighters had to fight the blaze from 100 meters (yards) away because it

broke out in one of the area's many alleyways, tangled in electrical wire and too narrow for vehicles to access, authorities said.

A resident of the area, Mohammed Naushad, said he was woken by people wailing at around 4:30 a.m.

He went outside to find

smoke and flames shooting out of a building near Sadar Bazaar. Inside, he found the fourth floor engulfed in flames. One floor below, he saw "20 to 25 people lying on the floor."

"I don't know if they were dead or unconscious, but they were not moving," Naushad said.

He said he carried at least 10 people out of the flames on his shoulders and into the arms of emergency responders.

Maisuma Bibi, a day laborer making plastic handbags, survived the blaze. She said she was sleeping in a room with about 18 other women and children on the building's first floor when she woke to find a bag full of plastic parts on fire. Her brother-in-law carried her to safety, she said.

Outside a mortuary that was guarded by dozens of police officers, some of the workers' relatives said they had received phone calls from the men trapped inside, who begged them to call the fire brigade.

Family members identified the dead from photos on police officers' phones. □

Associated Press

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## Main Lebanon PM candidate withdraws from consideration

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — A possible candidate for prime minister of Lebanon said Sunday he is withdrawing from consideration for the post, prolonging the country's political crisis. Samir Khatib said the country's top Sunni religious authority told him the community supports resigned Prime Minister Saad Hariri to take back the post.

Under Lebanon's sectarian-based political system, the prime minister comes from the Sunni Muslim community, while the president is chosen from the Maronite Christian community. The parliament speaker is chosen from the ranks of Shiite Muslims.

Khatib's announcement



In this photo released by the Lebanese Government, Lebanon's outgoing Prime Minister Saad Hariri, right, meets with Samir Khatib, the head of a major contracting and construction and once considered a favorite candidate for the post of Prime Minister, in Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

came hours before he was expected to be named as the official candidate following consultations between the president and major parliamentary blocs.

Hariri resigned Oct. 29 amid nationwide protests in which demonstrators accused the political elite of corruption and mismanagement. □



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## N. Korea conducts 'important test' at once-dismantled site

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** —

North Korea said Sunday that it carried out a "very important test" at its long-range rocket launch site that it reportedly rebuilt after having partially dismantled it at the start of denuclearization talks with the United States last year. The announcement comes amid dimming prospects for a resumption of negotiations, with the North threatening to seek "a new way" if it fails to get major U.S. concessions by year's end. North Korea has said its resumption of nuclear and long-range missile tests depends on the United States.

Saturday's test at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground will have "an important effect on changing the strategic position of (North Korea) once again in the near future," an unidentified spokesman from the North's Academy of National Defense Science said in a statement, carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea didn't say what the test included. Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said that North Korea likely tested for the first time a solid-fuel engine for an intercontinental ballistic missile.

The use of solid fuel increases a weapon's mobility



People watch a TV news program reporting North Korea's announcement with a file footage of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.

and reduces the amount of launch preparation time. The long-range rockets that North Korea used in either ICBM launches or satellite liftoffs in recent years all used liquid propellants.

CNN reported Friday that a new satellite image indicated North Korea may be preparing to resume testing engines used to power satellite launchers and intercontinental ballistic missiles at the site.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said in a brief statement later Sunday that South Korea and the United States are closely monitoring activities at the Sohae site

and other key North Korean areas.

President Donald Trump reacted to the development by saying that North Korea "must denuclearize."

"Kim Jong Un is too smart and has far too much to lose, everything actually, if he acts in a hostile way," Trump tweeted Sunday.

"North Korea, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, has tremendous economic potential, but it must denuclearize as promised," he said.

Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, added that North Korea has a choice to make. "And we hope they make

the right choice," he said in an interview Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

On Saturday, Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in discussed developments related to North Korea, and the two leaders committed to continuing close communication, the White House said in a statement. Moon's office also released a similar statement, saying the two leaders had a 30-minute phone conversation at Trump's request.

The North Korean test "is meant to improve military capabilities and to shore up domestic pride and legitimacy," said Leif-Eric

Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul. "With the activity at Sohae, Pyongyang is also trying to raise international concerns that it may intensify provocations and walk away from denuclearization talks next year."

The Sohae launching center in Tongchang-ri, a seaside region in western North Korea, is where the North has carried out banned satellite launches in recent years, resulting in worldwide condemnation and U.N. sanctions over claims that they were disguised tests of long-range missile technology.

North Korea has said its satellite launches are part of its peaceful space development program. But many outside experts say ballistic missiles and rockets used in satellite launches share similar bodies, engines and other technology. None of North Korea's three intercontinental ballistic missile tests in 2017 was conducted at the Sohae site, but observers said the site was used to test engines for ICBMs.

After his first summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore in June last year,

Trump said Kim told him that North Korea was "already destroying a major missile engine testing site" in addition to committing to "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula. □



# Students keep driving protests demanding change in Chile

By EVA VERGARA  
Associated Press

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)** — Nearly two months ago, Catalina Santana jumped a turnstile in the Santiago metro and helped launch a movement that changed the course of Chilean history. Student protests over a fare hike morphed into a nationwide call for socioeconomic equality and better social services that brought millions to the streets and forced President Sebastián Piñera to increase benefits for the poor and disadvantaged and start a process of constitutional reform. But Santana, 18, isn't done. Although the headlines have faded, she and thousands of other young people are still taking to the streets of Santiago and other Chilean cities almost daily to demand the government follow through on its promises of change. Two similar student-driven movements over the last decade and a half led to significant but limited reforms in education policy, including lower costs for university students. The



In this Oct. 25, 2019 file photo, an anti-government protester holds out a Chilean flag during clashes with police in Valparaiso, Chile.

Associated Press

young protesters are hoping that this time around they will be able to force the government to make deep-rooted structural changes that address the fundamental causes of inequality, economic injustice and poor social services in Chile. "If my grandmother retires, she shouldn't die of hun-

ger," Santana said during a recent protests in central Santiago. "If I go to a hospital, I shouldn't die waiting for treatment. The professor teaching my classes shouldn't be paid so little money. It can't be this way." Starting with high-school students in 2006, then university students five years

later, Chile has been hit by regular, large-scale protests led by young people that have won concessions from the government. High school students' protests won discounts on public transportation and the waiver of charges for university entrance exams for most students. University students won free tuition

for nearly half the students in the country, and lower interest rates on student loans. In several cases, student protesters went on to become left-wing legislators who are now pushing for the reforms demanded by the street protesters. "In 2006 and 2011 we won partial solutions," said Fabrizio Termini, a 31-year-old law student who went onto the streets for the third time this year. "Now the support is widespread for all the demands we made, somewhat timidly, for years, and every sector of society is hoping for solutions to their problems." Piñera has already canceled some interest payments on student loans, but protesters are demanding more relief for education payments and related debt. The largely peaceful protests have been accompanied by vandalism and violence at the hands of masked young people in cities across Chile, and use of tear gas and non-lethal ammunition fired by police that has wounded thousands. □

## Minister: Brazil can't stop deforestation without help

By DOROTHEE THIESING  
HELENA ALVES  
MARCELO DE SOUSA  
Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Brazil can't stop deforestation in the Amazon without the help of rich countries, the country's environment minister said at the United Nations' two-week climate change conference. Ricardo Salles, who declined to set a target for limiting deforestation in the coming year, said in an interview Saturday with The Associated Press that his country is committed to reducing illegal activity, but needs the support of developed nations. "We are willing to do whatever is necessary to do so, but we need that back up," Salles said. "That back up was prom-



In this photo taken on Saturday Dec. 7, 2019, Brazilian environment Ricardo Salles stands outside the Brazil delegation room at the COP25 U.N. climate talks in Madrid, Spain.

Associated Press

ised many years ago and we're still expecting the rich countries to participate in a proper way. Pro-

portional funds are really are what are going to be needed for that task." While participating in the

climate conference known as COP25, Salles is working to assure others of the environmental policies of Bra-

zil's far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro has squabbled with some European leaders this year over his commitment to protecting the Amazon. He has worried environmental activists and others by criticizing Brazil's environment regulator and by calling for more development in the Amazon region. He also accused activists groups, without evidence, of having set fires in that region to undermine his administration. Deforestation in the 12 months through July reached the highest annual rate in 11 years. Brazil's annual deforestation report released in November showed a nearly 30% jump from the prior year in the Amazon, which lost 3,769 square miles (9,760 square kilometers) of forest. □



# LOCAL



## 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill NOW open!

### “Everyone knows Jimmy Buffet’s bars in the States”



**ORANJESTAD —** The Renaissance Marketplace opened their new other-state-of-mind 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill last weekend as well as the Christmas event Winter Wonderland. Get yourself some great energy because this will definitely make you happy. Time will be irrelevant while taking in the chill vibes of live music and lots of fun, super drinks and scrumptious delights. You simply can't miss it!

The dynamic manager of 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill, Carlton Ho Sing Loy, can't wait to show the guests why the bar has already earned its stripes in the States. “Everyone knows Jimmy Buffet's bars in the States. He is a singer and producer who owns the Margaritaville chain named after his hit song 'Margaritaville'. You will find this bar in many places, but Aruba has the first stand-alone 5 o'clock Somewhere bar. “Here it is all about fun and entertainment. Big fans of Buffet are called Parrot Heads and

for sure we will put them here at the bar. We will play games with our guests like Corn Hole, Plinko and Ring Games to interact and of course prizes are to be won. Regular guests are familiar with the typical Buffet greeting which is the Fins Up. Yes, this is a happy experimental bar.” A great choice to do something different for locals, and a must-do for Buffet fans.

#### Everything at Somewhere

Ho Sing Loy's team is ready to welcome you at their dynamic place where you can expect bottle flipping and other tricks, TV screens showing sports and daily specials like Margarita Mondays, Tito Tuesdays, Wing It Wednesdays. “It is a very different menu in the sense that we have all the original drinks that belong to the Margaritaville brand like the Margarita's Who's To Blame, Uptown Top Shelf, Livin' it up and so on. Beers, wines, boat drinks, smoothies are all part of the offering, for everyone there's something at the 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar.

The menu drinks and bites are well-priced inclusive taxes and service charge. Are you craving for some Margaritaville classics? Try the 5 o'clock signature burger or the nachos with tortilla chips that are layered with beef and bean chili, cheese, pico de gallo, jalapeños, guacamole and sour cream. It is a straight, yes. But after all you are in Aruba so you may feel to taste a bit of the island. Another yes as there is the Aruban Cuban, bitterballen or Chicken Keshi Yena. It is up to you! “By the way, we also got the merchandising kiosk selling T-Shirts, caps and so on.”

Zugheila Lindeborg, Local Marketing Manager: “We planned building a bar for many years already and we found the right match with the brand Margaritaville.



It is a different type of bar because of the chill environment combined with lots of fun.” Ho Sing Loy agrees to that: “At this bar, you can just be you. It is an easy walk-in bar for everyone. The bar is large and inviting with a DJ every night and every Friday a live band on a small stage. The ambiance will rock and the fun never stops.” Raise a glass and take a bite out of paradise! For more information: Facebook / Instagram @5oclocksomewherearuba. □

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## The importance of investing in sustainability By students of the University of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On the 18th of October, a group of 22 students departed from Aruba to Washington D.C., capital of the United States of America. The program Organization, Governance and Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba offers students the opportunity to participate in this biennial educational excursion. As students, we had the tremendous opportunity to visit various governmental offices, organizations, museums, memorials, and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). Our highlights, in particular, include the visits to UDC, the UDC Firebird Research Farm, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The visits to UDC and the Firebird Research Farm gave us insight on how current and future communities can play their part in creating sustainable communities. As part of the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability & Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), the farm conducts research on

the strategic use of agriculture and sustainability in urban areas. The fact that Aruba, as a small island, imports most of its food makes us susceptible to food insecurity. In fact, a few goals of CAUSES is to improve food security and safety, expand alternative energy solutions, and mitigate climate change. We found these goals to be very relatable for us as islanders. The farm researches different methods of sustainably grown vegetables, such as aquaponics and hydroponics. Aquaponics uses fish and their waste as plant fertilizer while the water is filtered and reused. Hydroponics is the use of water rather than soil to grow vegetables. Although the methods do have both pros and cons, students were fascinated to learn about these farming options. We found hydroponics to be an attractive method as Aruba's landscape is very desert-like without much arable land, and methods like these can allow us to grow organic food and increase our food security. Much of the farm is powered by





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solar energy, a resource that we in the Caribbean need to make more use of to play our part in mitigating climate change.

At UDC we had the opportunity of getting a lecture and tour regarding sustainability from Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Dean and Director of Land-grant Programs for CAUSES. We were asked questions as to how we can harvest more with a limited amount of space. We were reminded to be conscious of the food we eat and throw away. UDC focuses on how urban spaces, such as rooftops, can be converted and used to grow crops instead of wasted space. We were shown how the CAUSES building was reinforced to support the weight of the rooftop garden, demonstrating that there are solutions to problems such as lack of space.

Moreover, at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), we received a presentation by Björn Kuil, who explained that IDB helps countries invest in various areas for the future. As the Dutch representative and Senior Counselor in the Board of Directors,

he explained the negative effects of countries not having the necessary resources for sustainable development. The bank aims to improve social inclusion and equality, productivity and innovation, economic integration, gender equality and diversity, climate change and environmental sustainability.

The excursion gave us the chance to make new friends, learn more about the history and other cultures through visits to museums and memorials, such as the Library of Congress, National Museum of African-American History and Culture, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and National Museum of American History. Most importantly, the visit to Washington D.C. proved to be educational and stimulating for us as OGM students.

We find the importance of sustainability at present and in the future to be a topic that Aruba has to acknowledge and promote. As students and future young professionals, we hope to do as much as we can to support those working for a better community. □



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## Engaged in paradise

**ORANJESTAD — Tom & Denise White of New Jersey, would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Ashley White to Derek Oliphant of Pennsylvania.**

Ashley and her parents have been coming to Aruba since 1998, they were recognized by the Aruba Tourism Authority as Aruba Goodwill Ambassadors last year. During their 20+ years of visits they have been proud to call Casa del Mar Beach Resort, their home away from home, where they have made many friendships over the years.

Tom & Denise want to share this Glorious engagement news with all their Aruban family of friends, many of which have watched Ashley grow up from the age of two.

The engaged couple now reside in Raleigh, North Carolina, but they plan to continue visiting their favorite place on earth.... Aruba One Happy Island.

A wedding date has not yet been set, but their Casa del Mar family wishes the couple all the best on their newest journey together. □







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## Loyal and friendly visitors for over 35 years

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Eric & Mary Ellen Bregarner, together with couple Jack and Katherine McCabe all visiting Aruba for over 35 years! The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable

moment for all of us. This lovely group of people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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## Now at the Casa Del Mar Resort Top American standup comics perform in Aruba Ray Ellin's phenomenal show



by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as "Aruba Ray" because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past seven years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba. Ray has appeared on many television programs; he has hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox. Ray is an executive producer and co-star on the television show This Week at the Cellar, on Comedy Central.



**EAGLE BEACH — The "Aruba Ray's Comedy" show features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show, now located - for December only - at Casa Del Mar Resort. Celebrating six years of Excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray's Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Fun Activity on TripAdvisor.**

Jimmy Fallon Show", Tony V from CBS' "The Late Show", Christine Hurley from "Last Comic Standing" and Ray Ellin from "This week at the Comedy Cellar" on Comedy Central.

Ray Ellin hosts and produces the shows. Considered

"I'm very excited to do the show for the first time in the low-rise area!" said Ellin. "Casa Del Mar has a cozy showroom that is really excellent for comedy, and the GM of the Resort, Bob Curtis, is bringing great entertainment to a timeshare for the first time - showing why he is such a popular and forward-thinking leader, and is giving visitors of

Aruba an opportunity to see the show that so many people have embraced for the past several years."

The shows are at 8:30pm, every night, from December 2nd to December 20th, in the showroom at the Casa Del Mar Resort. Doors

open at 8pm. It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve. To save money, it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at [www.ArubaComedy.com](http://www.ArubaComedy.com). You can also purchase tickets (subject to availability) at the showroom door at 7:30pm.

The show was named as one of USA Today's "10 Best. This is the same caliber show you would find at the top comedy clubs in NYC. The comedians are truly some of the best from the United States. This wonderful show is a great way to spend a night out. Advance tickets are suggested - - and are less expensive - - at [www.ArubaComedy.com](http://www.ArubaComedy.com).

Line-up is Dan Naturman, finalist on America's Got Talent, Robert Kelly from "The

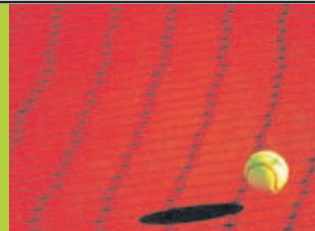


Anyone can attend, however the show is suggested for a mature audience. You can now also purchase dinner and a show, online, at [www.ArubaComedy.com](http://www.ArubaComedy.com). Enjoy dinner at 6:30pm, before the show begins! Ask your concierge for assistance, or call Casa Del Mar at 582-7000 or call Aruba Ray's Comedy Club at 749-4363. □





# SPORTS



Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young (11) signals a three he shot as he follows Vince Carter (15) off the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Charlotte Hornets in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

## Trae Young scores 30 points, Hawks beat Hornets 122-107

By STEVE REED  
AP Sports Writer

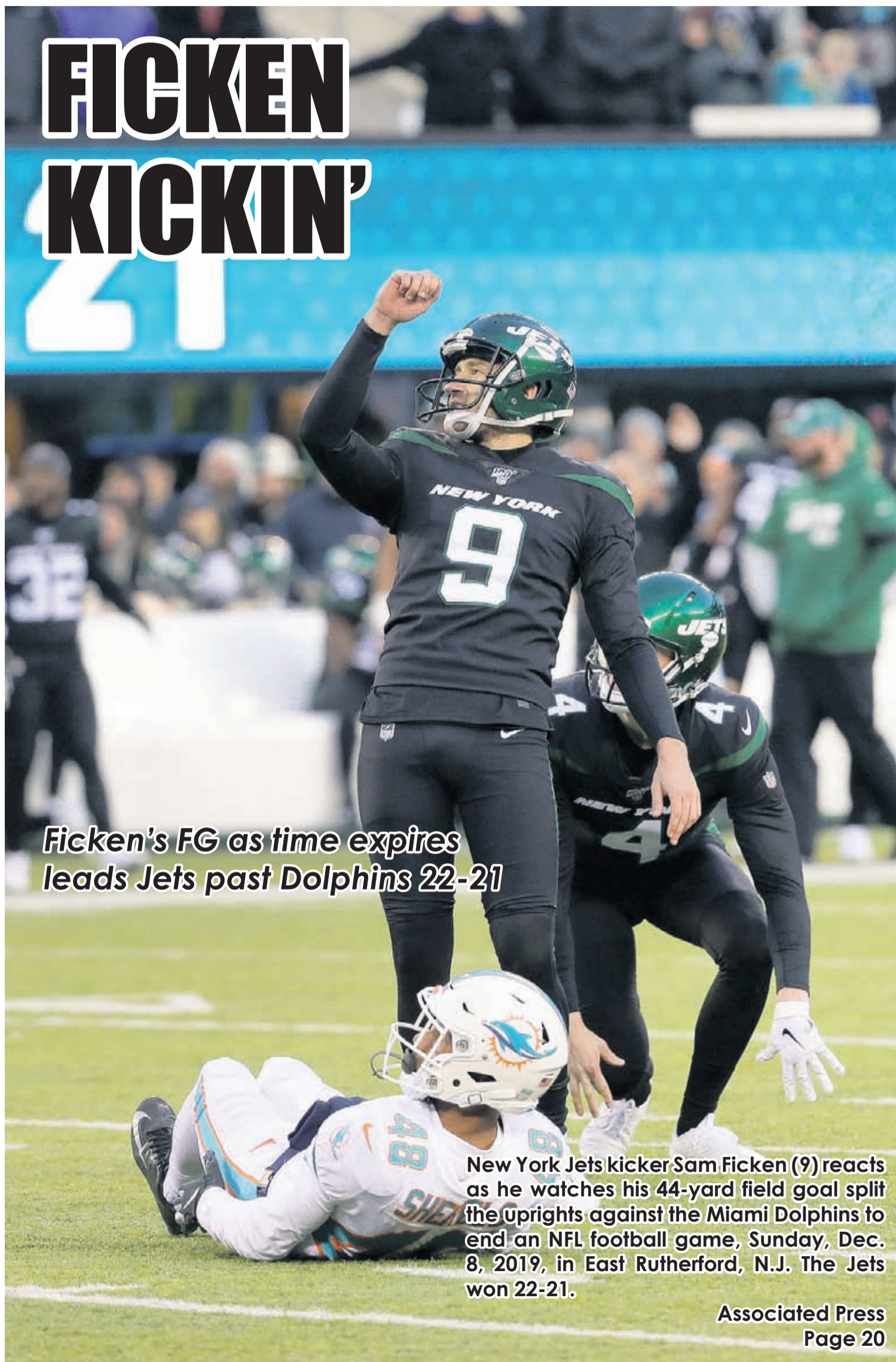
**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —** Trae Young took a knee to the face, then returned to deliver a knockout blow to the Hornets.

Young turned in perhaps his most complete game of the season with 30 points, nine assists and six rebounds and the Atlanta Hawks beat Charlotte 122-107 on Sunday night for their second victory in three games after a 10-game losing streak.

"I thought I was going to be out forever," a fat-lipped Young said about the blow. "But I just cut my lip though. It felt worse than it looks." Jabari Parker added 19 points and Vince Carter had 17 off the bench on 7-of-9 shooting to help the Hawks improve to 6-17. Center Alex Len finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds and played a big role in helping turn the tide of the game in the third quarter.

Continued on Page 22

# FICKEN KICKIN'



*Ficken's FG as time expires leads Jets past Dolphins 22-21*

New York Jets kicker Sam Ficken (9) reacts as he watches his 44-yard field goal split the uprights against the Miami Dolphins to end an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won 22-21.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Ford cruises in giant slalom for 1st career World Cup win

By PAT GRAHAM  
AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)

— Tommy Ford cruised across the finish line, glanced up at the scoreboard and immediately pumped his right glove. It was simply the start of the celebration as Ford earned his first career World Cup win.

The American racer glided through the fog and the falling snow to finish the Birds of Prey giant slalom in a combined time of 2 minutes, 31.25 seconds Sunday. Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway was second, 0.80 seconds back, while fellow Norwegian Leif Kristian Nestvold-Haugen took third.

Ford found himself in new territory—leading after the first run. He didn't show any hint of nerves before pushing out of the start gate for his final pass. He gazed down at the awaiting course for a moment, before attacking. He flowed through the gates with the home crowd urging him to the finish line.

It's been quite a start to the season for the 30-year-old from Oregon. He finished fourth at the season-opening GS race in Soelden,

Austria, in late October. That also happened to be his best finish — until Sunday.

Ford became the first U.S. racer to capture a World Cup men's giant slalom race on home snow since Ted Ligety won in 2014.

Ligety struggled on his final run and was 11th. He tossed his poles to the snow after seeing his time.

The 35-year-old Ligety is predominantly focusing on the giant slalom this season. "It's been nice, just doing GS really," said Ligety, who has captured 24 World Cup giant slalom races and has been dubbed "Mr. GS" by his rivals. "I haven't had to balance as much of my time, as far as squeezing training for four different disciplines. It's good just having to think only about

GS. It's a nice gear shift." The conditions were hardly favorable with the snow falling and fog rolling in throughout the day.

Defending Birds of Prey GS champion Stefan Luitz of Germany made a mistake in the foggy conditions and didn't finish his first run.

"I love skiing here. But today was a really bad day for me," Luitz said.

He won his first World Cup race in Beaver Creek last December amid some controversy. Racing at an elevation of around 10,340 feet (3,152 meters), Luitz inhaled from an oxygen tank before his winning race. The International Ski Federation later disqualified him because its rules prohibit using supplemental oxygen even though the World Anti-Doping Agency does not.



United States' Tommy Ford reacts after his run during a men's World Cup giant slalom skiing race Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

But the Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld Luitz's appeal against disqualification in March and awarded him his first World Cup win. Luitz said he never really got the chance to celebrate his achievement.

That's why he's eager for another.

"Not only for the victory, but there is so much around it — for my head and my skiing," Luitz said. "That's why I'm trying so hard to get back on top." □

## Viktoria

### Rebensburg wins World Cup super-G in Lake Louise

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (AP)

— Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany raced to her fourth career World Cup super-G victory, withstanding a late charge by Italy's Nicol Delago.

Rebensburg, the 2010 Olympic giant slalom winner, finished in 1 minute, 20 seconds Sunday to edge Delago by 0.35 seconds. Delago was the 31st racer of the afternoon and bumped Corinne Suter of Switzerland into third place.

Three-time overall World Cup champion Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States wound up in 10th place. Shiffrin is the reigning champion in the season-long super-G competition. □

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## Ficken FG, controversial call lead Jets past Dolphins 22-21

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer  
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— Sam Ficken kicked a 44-yard field goal as time expired to give the New York Jets a 22-21 comeback victory over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday.

Sam Darnold got the winning drive going with a short pass to Vyncint Smith, who turned it into a 37-yard gain that included a high-step over a would-be tackler. After a sack two plays later put the ball at the Dolphins 46, Darnold threw an incomplete pass to Smith — but the Jets argued that Nik Needham interfered with the receiver by wrapping his right arm around Smith's right shoulder.

Officials overturned the call after a video review — giving the Jets a first down and new life. A 12-yard catch by Ty Montgomery got the ball to the 26.

Two plays later, Ficken won it, helping the Jets (5-8) avoid a season sweep by the lowly Dolphins (3-10).

Miami coach Brian Flores appeared incensed as the game ended, upset by the officials' reversal.

Darnold, who injured his right hand at the beginning



New York Jets kicker Sam Ficken (9) kicks the winning field goal during the second half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

of the fourth quarter, was off on a few of his late passes but finished 20 of 36 for 270 yards and touchdowns to Demaryius Thomas and Robby Anderson.

Darnold also was intercepted once.

Anderson had seven catches for 116 yards and the score. Bilal Powell, starting in place of the ill Le'Veon Bell, had 74 yards on 19 carries.

The Jets — who lost to the previously winless Cincinnati Bengals last week — overcame a Dolphins franchise-record seven field goals by Jason Sanders, including a 37-yarder that gave Miami the lead with 1:33 left.

Ryan Fitzpatrick was 21 of 37 for 245 yards with an interception, playing without top receivers DeVante Parker and Albert Wilson who both left with concus-

sions.

Sanders kicked a 48-yarder to put the Dolphins up 18-16 with 6:59 remaining, but Ficken's 42-yarder gave New York the lead again with 4:05 left.

**STARTS**

After Sanders' 22-yard field goal gave the Dolphins a 3-0 lead late in the first quarter, Darnold put New York ahead on its next possession with a 26-yard

touchdown pass to Anderson.

Ficken missed the extra point, but the Jets led 6-3 early in the second quarter. New York got the ball right back when Nate Hairston picked off Fitzpatrick when he snatched the ball out of Allen Hurns' hands on first down.

The Jets turned the turnover into three points and a 9-3 lead on Ficken's 37-yarder. The Jets took a 16-6 lead with 1:55 left in the opening half on Thomas' 14-yard touchdown catch, his first for New York, after the initial call of an incomplete pass was overturned by a video review as officials ruled Thomas had possession as he was tackled by Needham while falling into the end zone.

New York nearly had another score a few plays later when James Burgess intercepted Fitzpatrick and took it into the end zone, but the Jets linebacker was called for defensive holding — negating the turnover.

Miami ended up getting a 28-yard field goal from Sanders with 19 seconds remaining in the half to cut the deficit to 16-9. □



Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Breshad Perriman (19) beats Indianapolis Colts cornerback Quincy Wilson (31) on a 12-yard touchdown pass during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

By MARK DIDTLER  
Associated Press

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — The Indianapolis Colts are still searching for some of that magic they had last season during a incredible stretch run to reach the playoffs Jameis Winston threw for 456 yards and four touch-

downs, helping the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hand the Colts their fifth loss in six games, 38-35 on Sunday. Indianapolis (6-7) started the season winning five of seven, but the current slide has seen the Colts fall from first place to third in the AFC South. "Obviously, we

## Reeling Colts fall 38-35 to Bucs for 5th loss in 6 games

think we're a better team than that but the reality of it is that's our record," Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett said. "We've got to do things to change that. Do the things necessary to make plays in those critical times of the game. I think we've got the right guys in the locker room to do it." The Colts overcome an 1-5 start last season by winning nine of their last 10 — including four straight in December — to earn an AFC wild-card berth.

Sunday's loss was also costly because the Colts wasted an opportunity to pick up ground in the AFC South. "A tough loss," Indianapolis coach Frank Reich said. "It hurts. We said in the locker room, we've been in a little bit of a rut not making the plays to finish games. This is

a few games in a row now that we've had a lead in the second half and not able to sustain that." Brissett completed 19 of 36 passes for 251 yards, two TDs and no interceptions. Darius Leonard returned one of his two interceptions 80 yards for a second-quarter TD, and Marcus Johnson had a 46-yard scoring reception and finished with 105 yards on three catches for the Colts. All that offense with four-time Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton sitting out with a calf injury.

"There were a lot of positive play out there today, the way some of our guys played, but at the end of the day what really counts is making enough plays to win the ballgame and that's what we're struggling with right now," Reich said.

"The good thing about this team, there's no finger-pointing." Chase McLaughlin, filling in for injured kicker Adam Vinatieri, made field goals of 50 and 19 yards. However, a 47-yarder that would have given the Colts a 38-31 lead hit the right upright and bounced away midway through the fourth quarter.

In the end, scoring 35 points and forcing four turnovers didn't result in a victory. □

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## Nets hold off Nuggets 105-102 for 3rd straight victory

By MICHAEL SCOTTO  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Spencer Dinwiddie saved the Brooklyn Nets — again.

Dinwiddie scored 24 points and the Nets held off the Denver Nuggets 105-102 on Sunday for their third straight victory.

"As long as it's working, you're all going to love me," Dinwiddie said. "As soon as I miss, you're all going to hate me and tell me I'm selfish or something. We're going to keep rolling with it until that moment and I'll deal with whatever I've got to say then."

Denver had a chance to force overtime, but Jamal Murray missed a 3-pointer from the wing as time expired. Jarrett Allen added 19 points and 11 rebounds for Brooklyn. Star guard Kyrie Irving missed his 12th straight game because of a right shoulder impingement. Nikola Jokic had 24

points and 11 rebounds for Denver, and Murray scored 21 points. The Nuggets have lost two straight. Dinwiddie made consecutive driving layups to give Brooklyn a 103-102 lead with 26.3 seconds remaining. Denver's Will Barton missed a 16-foot off-balance floater, and Taurean Prince grabbed the rebound and was fouled. Prince made both free throws to make it 105-102 with 6.8 seconds left.

"It's like having an elite running back if you're an NFL coach," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said about Dinwiddie. "You can just pitch it to him and he can go get a bucket. ... When he gets speed downhill he's basically unstoppable. Those were the two plays where he got a head of steam and you can't stop him." Dinwiddie has scored 20 or more points in 10 of his last 12 games. For Jokic, Brooklyn's ability to get to the rim



Brooklyn Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie (8) puts up a shot against Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

at will in crunch time was unacceptable.

"It was too easy for them," Jokic said. "Second half it was too easy for them. We got to do something. I don't know what it is, but (we) probably need to do something."

### TIP-INS

Nuggets: Coach Michael Malone praised Paul Millsap. "He's been the quiet unsung hero of our team," Malone said. "We've had a lot of younger guys who have been up and down, inconsistent. If you looked at our first 20 games, Paul has been Mr. consistency

for us, and that's what you expect from a 14-year veteran." Millsap had nine points and four rebounds in 21 minutes.

Nets: Atkinson said Irving will increase his individual on-court work and integrate him into practice in the next week or two. □

## Hawks beat Hornets

Continued from Page 18

But it was Young who provided the daggers.

He had 20 points in the second half, including 14 in the decisive fourth quarter in which the Hawks blew open a game in which they trailed at halftime.

This was Young's 10th 30-point game of the season, but only the second time the Hawks have won when he's reached that scoring plateau.

"I love it, whenever we win that's all that matters to me," Young said. "If I play good and we win, I feel great. Play good and we lose, I'm mad."

"I thought that was his best game of the year," Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce said. "He had leadership on both side of the floor. He was engaged. He was yelling out their plays and barking to us. When you're locked in on both side of the ball and leading your team, I just thought it was his best game as a floor general." The 7-foot Len scored 11 points in the third quarter after being shut out in the first half. He played aggressive, scoring on a 3 from the top of the key, a pick-and-roll dunk from Carter and was strong on the offensive glass, helping give the Hawks a five-point



Atlanta Hawks' Vince Carter (15) aims his jumper over Charlotte Hornets' P.J. Washington (25) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. The Hawks won 122-107.

Associated Press

lead entering the fourth quarter. From there, Young took over as the Hawks broke open the game with

a 19-8 run to start the fourth quarter. Young was 5 of 7 from the field in the final quarter with two 3-pointers.

Miles Bridges and P.J. Washington each had 20 points to lead the Hornets. Charlotte has lost three of four during a five-game homestand. "I just thought we were going through the motions in the second half," Washington said. "It felt like we could have put them away, but we just let them hang around, they got on a run and started making shots and they just put us away."

### TIP INS

Hawks: DeAndre Hunter returned after missing a game because of a dislocated right index finger. He had 10 points and five assists. ... Atlanta's backups outscored Charlotte's 57-36. □



## Charlo stops Hogan in 7th to retain WBC middleweight title

By DENIS P. GORMAN

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Luck of the Irish?

Jermall Charlo didn't need luck. He had a power punch and pinpoint accuracy.

"I just threw the shot and I made sure I threw it right on the money," Charlo said after he stopped Dennis Hogan 28 seconds in the seventh round Saturday night to retain the WBC middleweight title.

Charlo improved to 30-0. Hogan, the fifth-ranked WBC middleweight, dropped to 28-3-1.

"I wanted to keep going but the decision was fair enough by the referee," Hogan said. "I didn't see the punch coming on the second knockdown. I was trying to keep boxing him but then all of a sudden I was on the ground and the fight was over."

Charlo controlled the fight throughout, and his pressure caused Hogan to circle away and only occasionally attempting an offensive flurry. Which led to the finish early in seventh. As Hogan was backing away, Charlo landed a punch flush to the face that caused referee Charlie Fitch to end the fight.



**Jermall Charlo punches Ireland's Dennis Hogan during the fifth round of a WBC middleweight title boxing match Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, in New York.**

"My power prevailed tonight," said Charlo, who landed the first and last big shots of the fight.

The first occurred in the fourth round, as he connected with an uppercut to the chin which caused the Irishman to do a backward somersault into the ropes. Following a standing eight count, Fitch let the fight continue. Having knocked down Hogan, Charlo began to go on the offensive with heavy punches which

stunned the challenger and set up the finish.

"We've been working on that (the uppercut)," Charlo said. "I try to take him out with every punch and we work hard for it. He got up and he fought like a champion."

The fight headlined a 12-fight card at Barclays Center. Prior to the bout Chris Eubank Jr., a British fighter, made his U.S. debut by becoming the WBA interim middleweight cham-

Associated Press  
pion. He stopped Matt Korobov 11 seconds into the second round.

As the round started, Kobarov (28-3-1) threw a left that may have grazed Eubank (29-3), who responded with a jab to the shoulder. The fight continued for a few moments before Kobarov asked for time as he pointed to his shoulder. Kobarov was examined by New York State Athletic Commission doctors for a few minutes and his team

for a few minutes in the ring before referee Steve Willis ended the fight much to the displeasure of those in attendance, who booed. Eubank wasn't overly enthused, either.

"I felt like I was about to get my swagger on. He just turned around and stopped I was going to go jump on him. I guess something happened with his shoulder," Eubank said. "I mean, there's nothing to take from the fight. I threw like three or four punches. I was just warming up. ...This wasn't my dream. My dream was to come here to America and make a statement."

A formal diagnosis of the injury wasn't immediately announced, but Korobov speculated it could have been a pulled muscle.

"I was trying to throw the left hand straight, and I just felt the muscle immediately, like I pulled it," Kobarov said. "It was a lot of pain right away. I couldn't fight with just one arm, especially being a southpaw."

While Eubank Jr.'s fight underwhelmed, Ryosuke Iwasa (27-3) became the IBF interim junior featherweight champion with an 11th-round technical knockout of Marlon Tapales (33-3). □

## Matt Jones wins second Australian Open title by 1 stroke

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Cruising for most of the final round and a leader after the second and third, Matt Jones suddenly needed to make a big putt on his final hole for a second Australian Open title.

He came through, making a testing four-foot par putt on the 18th to hold off Louis Oosthuizen by one stroke after a 2-under 69.

Jones, who is a member at the host Australian Golf Club and won his first national title there in 2015, had a 72-hole total of 15-under 269.

Oosthuizen, playing for the first time in Sydney, finished second after a 66. The South African eagled the 18th after hitting his second shot to 15 feet, making things interesting for Jones at the end.



**Matt Jones of Australia poses with the Stonehaven Cup after winning The Australian Open Golf Championship at The Australian Golf Club in Sydney, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019.**

Associated Press

"I was told on the 18th fairway that Louis had made eagle ahead of me," Jones said. "So it was a pretty good up and down to win the championship."

Japanese amateur Takumi Kanaya (71) finished tied for third with Australian Aaron Pike (69).

Jones, Kanaya and Pike qualified for next year's Brit-

ish Open by finishing among the top three who were not already qualified. Former British Open champion Oosthuizen was already exempt for next year's tournament from July 16-19 at Royal St. George's.

It's Jones' third qualifying spot for the British Open via a top finish in his home Open. "I've played in maybe five British Opens and it's the one major I would most like to win," Jones said. "To be able to do that and plan a schedule around that, will be fantastic." Kanaya said he didn't realize he needed a birdie putt on 18 to make it into the top three.

"No I didn't, but happy to be going there," he said. Chasing his first big win in Australia, Marc Leishman mounted a challenge un-

til his round came undone with a double-bogey on nine. Leishman sprayed his approach into the deep rough right, chopped out to the cart path and came up short before two-putting to fall six shots off the pace. He shot 71 to finish in a share of 10th at seven under.

Oosthuizen, Leishman and Adam Scott, who missed the cut, now move on to Royal Melbourne for next week's Presidents Cup, where they are all members of the International team.

Their team captain, Ernie Els, missed the Australian Open cut, giving him some extra time to prepare for the four-day tournament against a United States team which has only lost once previously — at Royal Melbourne in 1998. □





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## Joshua 2.0: British boxing star plots new path to dominance

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**

AP Sports Writer

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— It's not all about the devastating knockout for Anthony Joshua anymore.

He's not going to go desperately chasing Deontay Wilder for the elusive belt in his heavyweight collection, either.

This is Joshua 2.0.

After what he describes as a "roller coaster" year, the British boxing star is back as the multiple world heavyweight champion after beating Andy Ruiz Jr. in a unanimous points decision in their rematch in Saudi Arabia early Sunday.

Listening to Joshua after the fight, there's a sense he is about to embark on a new path to domination of the marquee division. The drastic change to his fighting style and mind-set is an indication of that.

Against Ruiz, Joshua overhauled his approach — "I took it back to the old school, '70s style," he said — and used dancing feet instead of his traditional power-punching to break down his opponent.

"Boxing's a sweet science," Joshua said with a grin.

"Hit and don't get hit. That's the name of the game."

For a heavyweight who made his name as a knockout merchant, Joshua has only won one of his last five fights by knocking his opponent to the canvas, in a period stretching back 2½ years.

He is becoming more cautious, more of a student of boxing.

Expect that to continue in his second reign as champ after regaining the WBA, WBO and IBF belts.

Joshua said he has learned his lesson after not preparing properly for his first fight against Ruiz in June, which went badly wrong

when he was knocked down four times before be-

rematch in the Middle East, where avoiding Ruiz played

Wilder, the WBC champion who owns the belt Joshua

wasn't playing to my benefits. So I'm just going to let the path take its course. When the opportunity presents itself to become undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, I'll definitely step up and take the challenge."

So, for the time being, Joshua appears likely to fight mandatory challengers, probably starting with Kubrat Pulev of Bulgaria in the spring to keep the IBF belt. Then, Oleksandr Usyk — the unified cruiserweight champion who recently stepped up to heavyweight — in the summer to retain the WBO strap.

Only then could he realistically fight "the other guy," as Joshua often refers to Wilder.

So, apparently, there is no real rush to meet the American. Not like a couple of years ago when that unification fight clearly dominated the thoughts of Joshua and his ambitious promoter, Eddie Hearn.

The loss to Ruiz in New York could, then, be the making of Joshua. It was a shock to the system, making him realize it will not be a straightforward ride to global domination, that he cannot switch off in any fight and expect to pull through. "It's nice to KO and there were times when I looked in Andy's eyes and I wanted to put my fist through his head," Joshua said.

"But then I thought to myself, 'This is boxing. I need to win for myself, show people that there is a sweet science to the sport as well.' It's not like a script, it's not wrestling, this is real life and it's dangerous.

"These guys are highly skilled athletes. I just love preparing for a good challenge. This is all I have, all I got. I have disciplined myself for it." □



**Britain's Anthony Joshua celebrates after beating Andy Ruiz Jr. on points to win their World Heavyweight Championship contest at the Diriyah Arena, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia early Sunday Dec. 8, 2019.**

Associated Press

ing stopped in the seventh round at Madison Square Garden. He told the BBC on Sunday that he had an "issue with my health" before that fight that led to him putting his head in a bucket of ice because he felt "tired and drained." Joshua gave no precise details about the issue.

When asked if his fans might have expected more from Joshua in the controversial

as big a part in the game plan as punching him, the Briton said: "If I box for the crowd and people's opinion, I might not have been victorious. I trusted my own process and now I am the champion. I'm going to follow my own instincts while I'm boxing."

The more mature side of Joshua might also come through in his seemingly never-ending pursuit of

needs to become the first unified champion since Lennox Lewis early this century.

"I would love to unite the belts," Joshua said.

"But when you are chasing ... it's the same as when you're in the fight. Sometimes if I'm chasing the right hand, I'm chasing the left hook, it may come crashing down on me.

"I realize chasing that fight



# State AGs look to head off T-Mobile-Sprint deal in court

By TALI ARBEL

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A high-drama telecom deal is heading to court.

T-Mobile, in its attempt to buy Sprint for \$26.5 billion, has already notched approvals from key federal regulators. Now it must convince a federal judge that the 14 state attorneys general suing to stop the deal are wrong. A trial starts Monday in U.S. District Court in New York and is expected to last several weeks.

If T-Mobile prevails, the number of major U.S. wireless companies would shrink to three from four. A combined T-Mobile-Sprint would become a fiercer competitor to larger Verizon and AT&T.

But the states argue that having one fewer mobile carrier would reduce competition and cost Americans billions of dollars in higher phone bills.

T-Mobile and Sprint provide cheaper alternatives to Verizon and AT&T, and T-Mobile has branded itself the “Un-carrier,” one that has made consumer-friendly changes such as bringing back unlimited-data plans and shattering two-year service contracts. There are concerns that less competition would put an end to these types of changes, although T-Mobile says that won’t happen.

The deal got the nod from both the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission, thanks to T-Mobile’s unusual commitment to create a brand-new mobile carrier in a deal with satellite-TV company Dish. T-Mobile agreed to sell millions of customers to Dish and to rent its network to the fledgling rival while it built its own.

Absent that arrangement, the Justice Department said, the deal would have been bad for consumers. Dish would start providing cellphone service after buying Sprint’s current prepaid-service business. Dish is also required to build a faster, next-generation network, known as 5G, over the next several years.

The states says the Dish fix

isn’t good enough. In a court filing, lawyers argued that T-Mobile and Sprint shouldn’t be allowed to combine “based on the

analysts say their withdrawal won’t matter, as it takes only one state to see the case to completion. “We’ve made it pretty

“The states have the wind at their back in terms of the law. How the facts play out, we’ll find out in the courtroom.”

network or simply profit by selling the spectrum to others.

Post-deal, Dish faces up to \$2.2 billion in fines if it fails to create a 5G network that serves 70% of the country by 2023.

Some analysts have said that Dish has potential as a viable competitor; the big question is when. Even if Dish were to meet the 2023 government-imposed deadline, it still won’t reach as many potential customers as Sprint’s 4G network does to day.

Dish must “start from scratch,” said Nicholas Economides, a New York University business school professor who joined six economists in criticizing the Dish settlement as inadequate to make up for the loss of Sprint.

T-Mobile and Sprint say a merger is needed because Sprint by itself is weak and getting weaker. Sprint’s network quality is worse than its rivals’, and it has been losing customers, limiting its ability to invest in network improvements. T-Mobile CEO John Legere has insisted that Dish, even starting from scratch, will be more formidable than Sprint.

Legere, the face of T-Mobile and the rare telecom executive whose name may be known to the public because of his tendency to post videos and GIFs on social media, is stepping down as CEO next spring. He and his replacement, T-Mobile President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Sievert, have said they are confident that T-Mobile will prevail, but add that the company will be fine even if it isn’t allowed to buy Sprint.

“All roads lead to success,” Legere said during a call with analysts in mid-November.

T-Mobile has consistently shown that it would be OK without Sprint, said Craig Moffett, a well-known telecom analyst with MoffettNathanson Research. But the company would still need to figure out a new strategy for creating a strong 5G network without Sprint’s spectrum. □



In this April 27, 2010 file photo, a woman using a cell phone walks past T-Mobile and Sprint stores in New York.

Associated Press

hope that Dish will one day grow into a viable wireless company equal to a competitor that already exists today.”

T-Mobile, which promised not to raise prices for three years, defends its deal as good for competition. It repeats previous arguments that the combined T-Mobile and Sprint will be able to build a better 5G network — a priority for the Trump administration — than either company could manage on its own.

The states’ challenge is led by New York and California and includes counterparts from 11 other states and the District of Columbia. Texas, Nevada, Colorado and Mississippi have dropped out over the past two months after reaching separate settlements in which T-Mobile typically promised 5G service in the states and steady prices or low-price options. But ana-

clear we’re committed to take this all the way,” California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in an interview Friday. He said that he’s “never closed the door” to a settlement with the companies, although he declined to specify what conditions that would require of T-Mobile.

Although it’s unusual for states to try to block a deal already approved by the federal government, experts note that states in recent years have been playing a bigger role in antitrust enforcement. They have gone after generic drug makers and hit tech companies with their own investigations.

“The states have going for them a pretty clear, straightforward application of the antitrust laws,” said Jeffrey Blattner, a former Justice Department official who now teaches at the University of Colorado.

T-Mobile, meanwhile, is arguing that consumers will benefit from the stronger network it will create and cost cuts after the merger, which will let it keep prices low. The company has also cited “things which usually would not be relevant in an antitrust case, such as the social policy of getting rural areas connected to broadband,” said Blair Levin, a policy analyst for New Street Research and former FCC official. He sees the states’ argument as stronger, but said “odds are close” of either side winning.

Dish, a satellite TV company with a shrinking customer base, has spent about \$21 billion over a decade buying wireless spectrum, the airwaves for transmitting data and calls, although the company hasn’t done much with it. Analysts have long questioned whether Dish intends to build its own



## Millennial Money: Give back without busting your budget

By **AMRITA JAYAKUMAR**  
Associated Press

It may not come as a surprise that millennials are passionate about giving back.

Millennials as a generation believe in supporting causes more than individual organizations, are likely to be influenced by peer networks when it comes to giving and want to give back in terms of money, time and leadership, according to the Millennial Impact Report, a decade-long study of millennial philanthropic behavior.

As you move through your career, you'll likely have more room in your wallet to give back.

Here's how to prioritize causes you care about and be strategic about giving, regardless of your income.

### CREATE A GIVING PLAN

The environment. Women's issues. Children's education. Animal welfare. There are so many causes that could benefit from your time and money that it can be overwhelming.

Begin by writing down the issues you care about most, says Andrea Pactor, interim director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University. The act of making the list gives you clarity about what's important to you



This April 3, 2019, file photo shows a tip box is filled with U.S. currency in New York.

Associated Press

and how to direct your spending or your time. (Financial planners say this is also a handy technique for prioritizing your financial goals, like saving for a down payment or getting rid of student loans, and creating a budget.)

"The next step is to do a real assessment of what you're giving now," Pactor says. "Is what I'm doing now aligned with my values?"

If you find yourself contributing to causes only when a friend or family member asks for help or clicking

yes to Facebook pledge requests, having a giving plan can help you focus on the issues you really care about.

"The benefit of a giving plan is that it enables the person who's been asked to say no without feeling guilty," Pactor says.

### DETERMINE YOUR DO-GOOD FUND

Financial experts say there's no rule of thumb about how much of your income you should dedicate to charitable giving. Religious communities that practice tithing recom-

mend giving 10% of your income, but unless you adhere to that, there's no "right" amount, says Christine Centeno, a certified financial planner at Simplicity Wealth Management near Richmond, Virginia.

"It all goes back to what you can afford," she says. "Charitable gifting is important, but you have to make sure you are saving for retirement and building a cash reserve." Centeno notes that volunteering your time or expertise can be an alternative to cash donations.

Regardless of how much you make, you can pick a percentage of your income and set it aside for giving, says Theresa Stevens, a financial coach who works with millennials at Declutter Your Money in Providence, Rhode Island. Stevens says starting now — with as little as 1% — instead of waiting until you reach some target number helps you build a savings habit that you can apply to other aspects of your finances.

When your income changes, revisit your giving plan to see if your priorities have changed and how much you can afford to donate, Pactor says.

Stevens recommends dividing your giving allowance into two buckets — one for causes you choose and one for spontaneous giving. "If I have 5% (set aside) for giving, I might earmark 3% for an organization I've chosen and 2% for Facebook fundraisers or causes that come up randomly," she says. The key is making room in your budget for both your own charitable causes and those of others.

### MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Even if you feel like your donations are modest, you can ensure every dollar you give counts. □

## Gannett: 'Frontline' reporting jobs will be last to get cut

By **TALI ARBEL**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In November, newspaper publisher GateHouse completed its acquisition of USA Today own-



In this Aug. 13, 2019, photo Gannett CEO Paul Bascovert poses for a photo in McLean, Va.

Associated Press

er Gannett, creating the largest newspaper publisher in the U.S. Executives behind the merger, which was funded in part by a high-interest, \$1.8 billion loan from a private equity firm, have pledged significant cost cuts, but say they are aiming to shield reporting jobs as much as possible.

The combined company, which will use the Gannett name, also has big aspirations for new digital ventures that it likens to a modern and reimagined form of classified advertising. The Associated Press spoke recently with Gannett CEO Mike Reed and the head of its new operating unit, Paul Bascovert. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Tell us about new products you might launch.

Bascovert: If you go back to think about what a local newspaper was, even 20 years ago, you were provided with news and information. But you also had connections to the local community through classifieds, which connected you with local providers. You could find a dog or cat, personals, a car, etc. We think we can actually go back to that through better digital innovation.

Q: You have 140 million online visitors, but that digital business is small for each local paper. □



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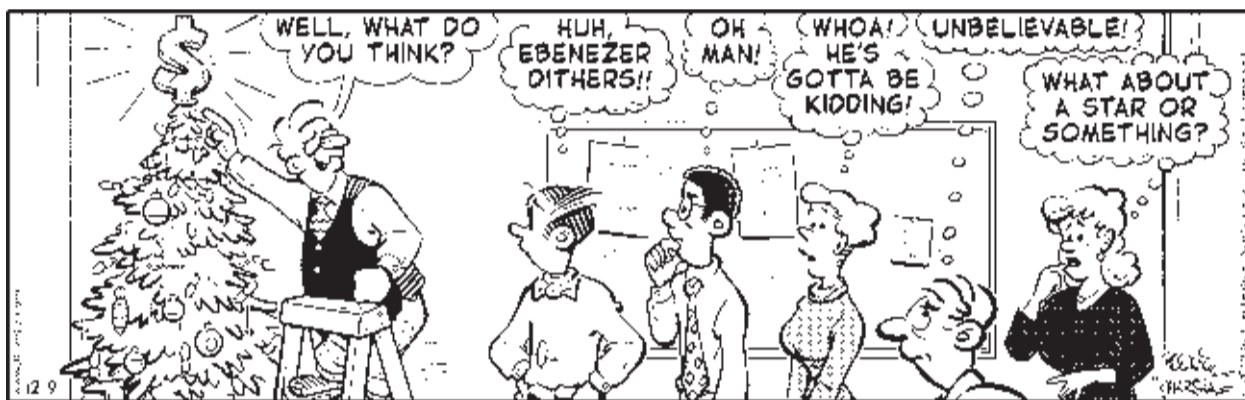
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

4		8	6		5
6	1	9		4	2
9		7	5		6
	4			1	
5		3	1		7
	9	6		2	3
4			7		
8		4	2		6

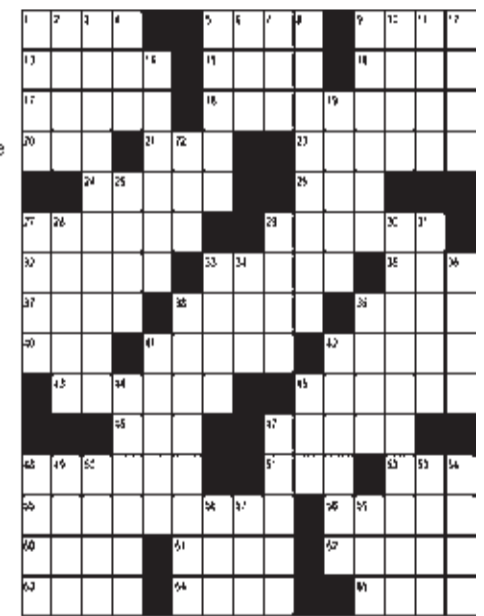
Difficulty Level ★ 12/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	7	8	2	9	4	6	5	3
5	4	3	6	7	1	9	8	2
2	6	9	8	5	3	4	7	1
9	2	5	1	4	6	8	3	7
4	3	6	7	8	5	1	2	9
8	1	7	3	2	9	5	4	6
3	5	4	9	1	7	2	6	8
7	8	1	4	6	2	3	9	5
6	9	2	5	3	8	7	1	4

- ACROSS**
- Infant's bed
  - Get lost!
  - Corny cat
  - Type of eclipse
  - Lion's den
  - in on; advance toward a target
  - drop of a hat; instantly
  - Kid's spending money
  - Letter for Socrates
  - Goes the Wease
  - Away in a no cab for his bed
  - and grains; compans
  - Cocosa
  - Vinor faces & details
  - PK's cat
  - Easy Fonda Popper! 'n'cho'son'm
  - Vol tactu
  - after chase
  - As sturdy oak
  - Wedding party member
  - Capitol roof
  - Kitten or catary
  - Air freshener cranc
  - Divans
  - Brought up as kids
  - Pour on as during a tie
  - Prelis for 'cr glace
  - Chexet or soccer
  - Stone wal' culders
  - Stux for inusket; or puppet
  - Needless hubcuc
  - Too 'airn to be nearc
  - Decl'ned
  - Kellogg's Fakes
  - Breakfast eating area
  - Coastlaw, for one
  - Go out of
  - Practical jokes
  - Ske ton & Butlers



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews 12/9/19

- DOWN**
- of thunder; spirit; sound
  - Furrows
  - Frighten; daunt
  - Scrooge's comment
  - Strikes with an open hand
  - Coolidge, to friends
  - Be in poor health
  - Brass instrument
  - Transform
  - Word before 's' and 'd' division
  - more a second time
  - Forest animal
  - Menz
  - Midr
  - roll; winning & winning
  - Kitchen appliance
  - Mouse catcher
  - Early one up at dawn
  - Key; Bears song
  - Cost-effective
  - Mortal
  - Pit or Garrett
  - Tuppenware top
  - Home of twigs
  - We come beer
  - Entrance
  - Use a pepper mill
  - Night noises
  - Quartz
  - Primate
  - Tries to 'no
  - Household pests
  - As dumb as
  - New De'ni dress
  - Deceased
  - Bookie's concern
  - Deadly squeezer
  - Piece of wood
  - Forbidden to
- Saturday's Puzzle Solved**
- |           |           |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| FRY       | SILAS     | UFOS  |
| DOOR      | EVENT     | TRUE  |
| RAKE      | ROTOR     | MAST  |
| DESPERADO | OUTS      |       |
| PONY      | LBS       |       |
| STRIKE    | SOLUTION  |       |
| CRATE     | MOVED     | DUO   |
| RICE      | TOWER     | WATT  |
| ABE       | SEDER     | TAHOE |
| PESTERED  | SALONS    |       |
| HEM       | LINK      |       |
| RARE      | IMMENSITY |       |
| AXES      | NAIVE     | NOON  |
| FLEE      | AGNEW     | GAGA  |
| TEOS      | LIKES     | DAB   |
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You just watched his team's jaws drop to the floor.

In this grab taken from video on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, centre, gestures as he speaks during a NATO reception.

Associated Press

## America's influence, once so dominant, waning under Trump

Continued from Page 6

He cites partnerships with other nations to fight terrorism and his administration highlights a recent high-profile raid in Syria that killed the leader of the Islamic State group.

Trump has successfully coaxed NATO allies to spend billions more on their own defense to lessen the burden on the U.S. He complains that America should not be the world's policeman or its piggy bank, and needs to get out of what he calls "endless wars." Some former administration officials have cited Trump's business background to describe him as having a "transactional" approach to foreign policy. He has pulled out of multilateral agreements, such as the Iran nuclear deal, yet he needs international support to pressure Tehran for its regional aggression and nuclear program. He gets credit for opening dialogues with the Afghan Taliban and North Korea, although efforts to end America's longest war and get Kim Jong Un to give up his nuclear weapons have so far been unsuccessful.

He also has set about negotiating bilateral trade agreements with many countries because he says deals made by previous administrations were unfair

to the U.S. He had success with South Korea, yet has not yet sealed a deal with China.

In some ways, Washington's declining influence is simply a reflection of history: America is no longer the singular economic and military giant that overshadowed nearly every other nation.

In 1945, America had the world's only nuclear weapons and produced roughly half the world's gross domestic product. Today, the U.S. has perhaps 15 percent of global GDP and even North Korea has nuclear weapons. Other countries have grown immensely. China, once a

poverty-battered behemoth, has become a financial giant and an emerging superpower. Countries from Brazil to India to South Korea have become serious regional powers.

But if history plays a role, the diplomatic shifts of the Trump years are more about a White House unapologetically focused on the U.S.

Globalism was once one of Washington's few unifying themes. Now, it's an insult in the capital, and the U.S. gets more attention for rejecting multilateral agreements, from Trump pulling out of the Asia-Pacific deal to his rejection of the Paris climate accords. □

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### Editor

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### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks  
Jencarlo Trinidad

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Frances  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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# Climate scientists try to cut their own carbon footprints

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

For years, Kim Cobb was the Indiana Jones of climate science. The Georgia Tech professor flew to the caves of Borneo to study ancient and current climate conditions. She jetted to a remote South Pacific island to see the effects of warming on coral. Add to that flights to Paris, Rome, Vancouver and elsewhere. All told, in the last three years, she's flown 29 times to study, meet or talk about global warming. Then Cobb thought about how much her personal actions were contributing to the climate crisis, so she created a spreadsheet. She found that those flights added more than 73,000 pounds of heat-trapping carbon to the air.

Now she is about to ground herself, and she is not alone. Some climate scientists and activists are limiting their flying, their consumption of meat and their overall carbon footprints to avoid adding to the global warming they study. Cobb will fly just once next year, to attend a massive international science meeting in Chile.

"People want to be part of the solution," she said. "Especially when they spent their whole lives with their noses stuck up against" data showing the problem. The issue divides climate scientists and activists and plays out on social media. Texas Tech's Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist who flies once a month, often to talk to climate doubters in the evangelical Christian movement, was blasted on Twitter because she keeps flying.

Hayhoe and other still-flying scientists note that



In this Nov. 27, 2019, photo, Georgia Tech professor Kim Cobb poses for a photo at her home in Atlanta.

aviation is only 3% of global carbon emissions.

Jonathan Foley, executive director of the climate solutions think-tank Project Drawdown, limits his airline trips but will not stop flying because, he says, he must meet with donors to keep his organization alive. He calls flight shaming "the climate movement eating its own."

Over the next couple of weeks, climate scientists and environmental advocates will fly across the globe. Some will be jetting to Madrid for United Nations climate negotiations. Others, including Cobb, will fly to San Francisco for a major earth sciences conference, her last for a while.

"I feel real torn about that," said Indiana University's Shahzeen Attari, who studies human behavior and climate change. She calls Cobb an important climate communicator. "I don't want to clip her

wings."

But Cobb and Hayhoe are judged by their audiences on how much energy they use themselves, Attari said. Attari's research shows that audiences are turned off by scientists who use lots of energy at home. Listeners are more likely to respond to experts who use less electricity.

"It's like having an overweight doctor giving you dieting advice," Attari said. She found that scientists who fly to give talks bother people less.

In science, flying is "deeply embedded in how we do academic work," said Steven Allen, a management researcher at the University of Sheffield, who recently organized a symposium aimed at reducing flying in academia. He said the conference went well, with 60 people participating remotely from 12 countries. Pennsylvania State University's Michael Mann, who flies but less than he used to, said moderation is key.

"I don't tell people they need to become childless, off-the-grid hermits. And I'm not one myself," Mann said in an email. "I do tell people that individual action is PART of the solution, and that there are many things we can do in our everyday lives that save us money, make us healthier,

make us feel better about ourselves AND decrease our environmental footprint. Why wouldn't we do those things?"

Mann said he gets his electricity from renewables, drives a hybrid vehicle, doesn't eat meat and has one child.

When Hayhoe flies, she makes sure to bundle in several lectures and visits into one flight, including 30 talks in Alaska in one five-day trip. She said more people come out to see a lecture than if it were given remotely, and she also learns from talking to the people at lectures.

"They need a catalyst to get to the next step and me coming could be that catalyst," Hayhoe said.

Marshall Shepherd of the University of Georgia will receive a climate communications award at the American Geophysical Union conference Wednesday in San Francisco. But he won't pick it up in person, saving 1.2 tons of carbon by not flying. He said he doesn't judge those who fly but wrote about his decision to stay grounded in hopes that people "think about choices and all of the nuances involved in these decisions."

Former Vice President Al Gore, who has long been criticized by those who re-

ject climate science for his personal energy use, said he has installed 1,000 solar panels at his farm, eats a vegan diet and drives an electric vehicle.

"As important as it to change lightbulbs," he said in an email, "it is far more important to change the policies and laws in the nation and places where we live."

Teen activist Greta Thunberg drew attention when she took a zero-carbon sailboat across the Atlantic instead of flying.

"I'm not telling anyone else what to do or what not to do," Thunberg told The Associated Press before her return boat trip. "I want to put focus on the fact that you basically can't live sustainable today. It's practically impossible."

Cobb is trying. In 2017, she started biking to work instead of driving. She's installed solar panels, dries clothes on a line, composts and gave up meat. All these made her feel better, physically and mentally, and gave her more hope that people can do enough to curb the worst of climate change.

But when she did the math, she found "all of this stuff is very small compared to flying."

Cobb began turning down flights and offering to talk remotely. This year she passed on 11 flights, including Paris, Beijing and Sydney.

"There hasn't been a single step I have taken that has not brought me a deeper appreciation for what we're up against and what's possible," Cobb said. "This gave me a profound appreciation for how individual action connects to collective action." But there's a cost.

Cobb was invited to be the plenary speaker wrapping up a major ocean sciences conference next year in San Diego. It's a plum role. Cobb asked organizers if she could do it remotely. They said no. She promised to do many roles for the conference from Atlanta. Conference organizers withdrew the offer. □



## Gala evening at La Scala celebrates culture over extremism

By COLLEEN BARRY  
Associated Press

**MILAN (AP)** — The gala season premiere of Puccini's "Tosca" starring Russian soprano Anna Netrebko and conducted by Riccardo Chailly received 15 minutes of applause from an audience of Milanese elite, in an evening that celebrated culture as a bulwark against political extremism.

For the second year, the performance opened with long applause for Italy's president, Sergio Mattarella, sitting in the royal box with four government ministers. As last year, the Italian government is struggling, and the long applause was seen as a show of support for Italian institutions, which Mattarella represents in a non-partisan role.

After five minutes of clapping, Mattarella signaled for the audience to turn to the stage for the Italian anthem and the start of "Tosca."

"When there is so much applause for Mattarella, like last year, it is to say that we believe in our constitution, that we believe in a single, indivisible Italy, and that we are a community that needs to grow and be open," said stage director Davide Livermore, who also directed last year's "Attila."



Musician Patti Smith arrives with her daughter Jesse Smith, right, for the gala premiere of La Scala opera house, in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019.

"There are too many strange things. There are too few politicians who have the courage to say fascism is against the law," Livermore said.

The audience of Italian business, fashion, cultural and political VIPs included senator-for-life Lilliana Segre, an Auschwitz survivor who was recently placed under armed escort due to anti-Semitic threats.

The Milan native recalled coming to La Scala as a 16-year-old and said she has been a season-ticket holder for 30 years.

She said she loves "Tosca" for its passion, adding, "I wasn't always 90 years old."

"Culture helps everything," Segre said before the performance. "As Primo Levi said, knowing is absolutely necessary," she said, referring to another Italian Holocaust survivor who recounted his experience in a series of celebrated books.

American poet Patti Smith, who recently received an honorary degree from the University of Padova, was back at La Scala, after attending the season-open-

ing for "Giovanna d'Arco" in 2015. She lauded an Italian grass-roots movement against right-wing populism, dubbed the Sardines, as she arrived at the theater, saying "The Sardines have power."

Netrebko starred in the role of Floria Tosca, the object of unwanted sexual attention from a powerful authority figure, Baron Scarpia, sung by Luca Salsi.

The plot — part thriller, part drama — evokes #MeToo for the modern ear, as Tosca feels forced to succumb to Scarpia in a bid to save her lover Mario Ca-

varadossi, performed by Francesco Meli. She rebels, killing Scarpia, but is outmaneuvered by Scarpia, who ensures that her lover is executed despite her concessions.

All three were showered with flowers and glitter from an appreciative crowd. Salsi kissed the stage in gratitude.

"It was written in 1900, but it gives a glimpse of the future of everything that comes more than a century later," said Chantilly, La Scala's musical director. "The modernity of the subject, the greatness of Puccini's music, makes 'Tosca' very contemporary, very credible and very similar to a reality that is very raw and harsh in our society."

Vittorino Andreoli, an Italian psychiatrist and writer who attended the performance, said Tosca's example serves as an antidote to contemporary woes.

"In this moment we are consuming our own feelings. Affection doesn't exist any more. Great loves don't exist any more," Andreoli said backstage.

"This is a woman who drives this story, with these stupendous arias. I think it is a great example that women need to take control, because society is built on affection, which doesn't exist any more. Everyone looks at money." □

Associated Press

## FKA twigs outdoes herself on 2nd album 'MAGDALENE'

By MELANIE J. SIMS  
Associated Press

FKA twigs, "MAGDALENE" (Young Turks)

FKA twigs' latest album, "MAGDALENE," is not about the ups and downs of love. No, the 9-track set finds twigs solidly in the down-and-out throes of heartache. And the pain is beautiful.

The album was written and produced by twigs, with contributions from Skrillex, Benny Blanco, Jack Antonoff and more. Fans who've waited long for twigs' follow-up to her 2014 debut, "LP1," will be happy to find that artisti-

cally, the singer just might be at her best. She is certainly more vocally and emotionally vulnerable than ever before.

That's especially true on beautifully gut-wrenching tracks like "mirrored heart," with its clash of metal and delicate keys. "Did you want me all?/ No, not for life/ Did you truly see me?/ No not this time," she sings. She turns the hurt outward on the headnod-worthy "fallen alien," co-produced by electronic music artist Nicolas Jaar. And twigs' voice rings out like a morning prayer on the enchanting "thousand eyes."

Named for the oft-misunderstood biblical figure Mary Magdalene, twigs weaves her album with mentions of the ancient woman. "I'm fever for the fire/True as Mary Magdalene/Creature of desire/ Come just a little bit closer to me/Step just a little bit closer to me/I can lift you higher," she sings on "mary magdalene."

Through her lyrics and sounds, twigs summons the spiritual and the sensual, and the result of her dabbling is sometimes cryptic, but always intriguing. Most importantly, it sounds amazing. □



This cover image released by Young Turks shows "Magdalene," a release by FKA twigs.

Associated Press



# 'Frozen 2' leads box office again; 'Playmobil' flops

By **JAKE COYLE**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — "Frozen 2" blanketed multiplexes for the third straight weekend, continuing its reign at No. 1 with \$34.7 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. animated sequel has already grossed \$919.7 million worldwide. It will soon become the sixth Disney

release this year to cross \$1 billion, a record sure to grow to seven once "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" hits theaters later this month. Early next week, Disney will cross \$10 billion at the global box office this year. But the weekend overall at the box office was yet another disappointing one for the movie industry. A handful of under-



This image released by Disney shows Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel, from left, Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, Kristoff, voiced by Jonathan Groff and Sven in a scene from the animated film, "Frozen 2."

Associated Press

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**DECEMBER 6-11**

**LE CORSAIRE**  
PBP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1:00PM

**QUE LEONES**  
OZUNA | CLARISSA MOLINA  
SPANISH  
PH MON-THU 6:10 | 8:30  
FRI 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50  
SAT 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50  
SUN 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30  
PBP MON-THU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20  
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35  
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35  
SUN 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

**WAVES**  
TAYLOR RUSSELL | KELVIN HARRISON JR.  
PBP MON-FRI 5:45  
SAT-SUN 2:50 | 5:45

**THE COURIER**  
OLGA KURYLENKO | GARY OLDMAN  
PH MON-FRI 7:10 | 9:30  
SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

**THE GOOD LIAR**  
HELEN MIRREN | IAN MCKELLEN  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
PH MON-FRI 6:45 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:45 | 9:10

**PATI PATNI AUR WO**  
KARTIK AARYAN | BHUMI PEDNEKAR  
PBP MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10  
SAT-SUN 12:55 | 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

**21 BRIDGES**  
CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS

**FROZEN II**  
KRISTEN BELL | IDINA MENZEL  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (P) PH MON-THU 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:35  
FRI 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:35 | 10:00  
SAT 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:35 | 10:00  
SUN 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:35

**CXC** MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00  
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00

**PBP** MON-THU 5:25 | 7:50  
FRI 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15  
SAT 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15  
SUN 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20  
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40  
SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40  
SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

**PBP** MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30  
FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45  
SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45  
SUN 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

**Knives Out**  
DANIEL CRAIG | CHRIS EVANS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13) PBP MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15  
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

**CHARLES ANGELS**  
KRISTEN STEWART | NAOMI SCOTT  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13) PBP MON-FRI 9:20

**FORD v FERRARI**  
CHRISTIAN BALE | MATT DAMON  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13) PBP MON-SUN 8:40

OPENING DECEMBER 12: JUMANJI:THE NEXT LEVEL, BLACK CHRISTMAS

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performing releases and a relatively thin wide-release schedule have only grown the roughly 7% slide in domestic ticket sales from last year. This weekend produced an outright flop in "Playmobil: The Movie," the week's only new wide release. The STX Films release was never expected to do well, but it bombed so thoroughly that it will rank among the worst-performing wide-releases ever. It grossed \$670,000 in 2,337 venues,

giving it a per-theater average of just \$286. A handful of companies combined to produce the \$75 million French film, including Wild Bunch and Pathe. The top five films were almost unchanged from last weekend. Rian Johnson's acclaimed, star-studded whodunit "Knives Out" remained in second place with \$14.2 million, declining a modest 47% in its second week of release. With \$63.5 million

cumulatively and \$124.1 million worldwide, the Lionsgate release has been one of the season's bright spots. So has James Mangold's "Ford v Ferrari," which stayed in third place with \$6.5 million over its fourth weekend. The racing drama, starring Matt Damon and Christian Bale, has sped to a global take of \$168 million for Disney, which acquired the film's original studio, 20th Century Fox, earlier this year. □

## Rapper Juice WRLD dies after medical emergency in Chicago

By **SOPHIA TAREEN**  
**MESFIN FEKADU**  
Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Rapper Juice WRLD, who launched his career on SoundCloud before becoming a streaming juggernaut and rose to the

top of the charts with the Sting-sampled hit "Lucid Dreams," died Sunday after a "medical emergency" at Chicago's Midway International Airport. The rapper, whose legal name was Jarad A. Higgins, was 21.

Authorities have not released details about his cause of death. The Cook County medical examiner's office was notified of Higgin's death Sunday morning, according to office spokeswoman Natalia Derevyanny, who said an autopsy was likely Monday.

Chicago police launched a death investigation after a 21-year-old male experiencing a "medical emergency" was transported from Midway to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said the man experienced cardiac arrest and was taken to a hospital from a small hangar at Midway, away from the main terminal, where private planes land. □



In this May 15, 2019 file photo, Juice WRLD performs in concert during his "Death Race for Love Tour" at The Skyline Stage at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

Associated Press





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**Nobel literature winner dreams of a new narrative style**

By DAVID KEYTON  
JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — Nobel Literature Prize winner Olga Tokarczuk says she thinks a new sort of fiction may be needed to counteract the modern era's tendency to isolate and divide people.

In her Saturday lecture in Stockholm ahead of receiving the prize next week, the Polish author complained of the "exhausting white noise of oceans of information" in the internet era.

"It has turned out that we are not capable of bearing this enormity of information, which instead of uniting, generalizing and freeing, has differentiated, divided and enclosed us in individual little bubbles," she said. Tokarczuk suggested this discourages people from understanding how actions are interconnected, thus contributing to climate crisis and political tensions.

She said she dreams of a new kind of "fourth-



2019 Nobel Prize laureate in literature Olga Tokarczuk speaks at a press conference at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday Dec. 6, 2019.

person" narrator in fiction who could encompass the views of each character in a novel.

"We can regard this figure of a mysterious, tender nar-

rator as miraculous and significant.

This is a point of view, a perspective, from which everything can be seen. Seeing everything means

recognizing the ultimate fact that all things that exist are mutually connected into a single whole, even if the connections between them are not yet known to

us," she said.

Tokarczuk is the 2018 literature laureate. Her prize was announced only two months ago because the Swedish Academy postponed naming a winner last year due to internal turmoil connected with a sex abuse scandal.

The 2019 Nobel Literature winner, Peter Handke, has also brought controversy to the body because of widespread criticism of him as an apologist for Serbian war crimes during the 1990s.

One Swedish Academy member said he is boycotting Nobel ceremonies this year in protest of Handke's selection and a member of the literature nominating committee has announced his resignation.

Handke jostled with journalists who were questioning his views at a Friday news conference, saying he preferred receiving soiled toilet paper to answering their questions. □

Associated Press



# Disturbing the peace? 5 hikes to avoid Yosemite crowds

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS**

**Associated Press**

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)** — Dappled sunlight kisses the valley floor of Yosemite National Park.

Granite monoliths, gushing waterfalls and giant sequoias abound. The wilderness is calling.

But instead of hitting the trails in a place John Muir called “by far the grandest of all the special temples of nature,” you’re sitting in a traffic jam, vying for limited parking.

More than 4 million visitors poured into Yosemite in 2018, and because its main attractions are concentrated along a 7-mile loop, it gets congested. Like, 5 p.m. in downtown Los Angeles congested. Parking can take hours.

“In general, national parks everywhere, they become more and more popular every year, and a place like Yosemite, you can’t just show up unprepared,” says James Kaiser, author of “Yosemite: The Complete Guide.” “It feels like a huge disappointment visiting a place to experience natural beauty and spending your time looking for a parking space.”

But there’s no reason anyone’s trip to the majestic park should be so fraught. Going any other time than summer, planning valley activities on any day but Saturday, getting an early morning start and choosing lesser-known trails can all help ensure a peaceful and restorative vacation.

The following hikes aren’t as famous as Half Dome or the Mist Trail, but that’s the point. They offer just as much beauty and a lot more serenity.

## 1. NORTH DOME

Like most of the recommended hikes on this list, this 8.8-mile roundtrip trek is off Tioga Road just north of the valley. Everything outside the actual valley automatically will be less busy, but the views are no less stunning. The last quarter of the hike offers a front-row view of Half Dome and the valley floor below, and without the crowds.

“The view of Half Dome is



**This Sept. 30, 2018 photo shows the trail for Gaylor Lakes on the far eastern side of Yosemite National Park.**

**Associated Press**

so unlike any other view in the park,” Kaiser says. “Half Dome is such an iconic site in Yosemite — to be able to enjoy it from North Dome I really think is special.”

To get to the trailhead, take Tioga Road to Porcupine Creek, about 28 miles east of Crane Flat and 21 miles west of Tuolumne Meadows. It’s easy to miss, so keep your eyes peeled for a small building with pit toilets and parking spaces

in a row on the south side of the road. After parking, look for a wooden sign that says, “Porcupine Creek Trail Head.” Below that you’ll see it’s 4.4 miles to North Dome. The first few miles of the trail are easy, quiet and heavily forested. Don’t be surprised if you see deer or even a black bear (don’t worry, they’re more afraid of you than the other way around). The views start opening up

after 3 miles, but the highlight of the hike is hoofing it to the top of North Dome, scurrying a bit farther down the other side and drinking in views of Half Dome.

Climbing the actual dome can be challenging but isn’t dangerous unless you like to court peril by walking too close to the edge. Hikers who tackle the dome should be generally fit or highly motivated.

Temperatures can vary

wildly from the bottom of the dome to the top, where there’s nothing to block the wind. Bring layers, 2 liters of water and snacks.

## 2. DOG LAKE AND LEMBERT DOME

Another conquerable dome in Yosemite is quicker to get to from its trailhead than North Dome. Lember Dome looms over Tioga Road, jutting so seemingly straight up, it looks doable only with rock-climbing gear. All it really takes is a smidgen of bravery.

The well-marked trail to Lember Dome is next to Tuolumne Meadows, just 10 minutes from the eastern exit of the park. It’s a haul if you’re staying in the valley or the towns south of the park, so consider combining the hike with other smaller jaunts to May Lake (2.8 miles roundtrip off Tioga Road) and Tuolumne Grove (see below).

Start the loop trail by going clockwise and head first to Dog Lake. You’ll pass the junction for Lember Dome at the .8-mile mark. Stay straight and go another .3 miles to the lake. Take a few photos before moving on, or walk around the entire lake and explore more. To get to the base of Lember Dome, retrace your steps back .3 miles from the lake to the Lember Dome junction and take a left. The trail will lead you gradually up for about a mile and a half. From there, go as far as you feel comfortable.

## 3. GAYLOR LAKES

Unless you’re a regular hiker accustomed to elevation, this 3-miler will make you huff and puff. The trailhead, just a stone’s throw from Yosemite’s eastern entrance, starts at an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet. Plus the beginning of the hike is up, up and more up, a steeper climb than say, Lember Dome. But the pain is relatively short-lived and the payoff big: two beautiful alpine lakes. After climbing 600 feet for just over half a mile, the trail evens out before dropping down to Middle Gaylor Lake. □



**This Oct. 20, 2019 photo shows Karen Tara, of San Francisco, soaking in the views of El Capitan from the top of Sentinel Dome in Yosemite National Park.**

**Associated Press**